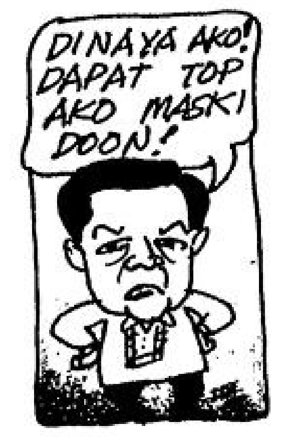
Losses forced SSS to borrow ₱7.4B last year

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1


DINAYA AKO! DAPAT TOP AKO MASKI DOON!

Surprise: Noli lost in Batanes

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE UNDISPUTED topnotcher of the Senate race didn't make it in Batanes, the only province in the country that voted 13-0 for the People

SURPRISE/ A17

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2001 ★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 163 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **3 hurt in Marawi blast** ACROSS / A13
- **Girl shot by cops dies** METRO / A21
- **RP lags in power reforms** BUSINESS / B5
- **Wahid faces impeach hearing** WORLD / A10

PPC shows video of fraud in N. Samar

Pimentel: Ex-Comelec men behind 'dagdag-bawas'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition has video footage showing local officials and candidates in the act of rigging the elections in Northern Samar.

Lawyer Emil Ong, PPC regional coordinator in Eastern Samar, played the footage yesterday at the coalition's headquarters in Pasig City. It showed 37 people, including candidates, policemen and municipal officers, opening ballot boxes and tampering with election returns at the San Isidro Sangguniang Bayan session hall in Catarman town.

"Criminal charges should be filed against them because this is a conspiracy to commit crime by falsifying public documents," Ong told the INQUIRER.

Asked if the two-hour footage, which was taken by two PPC supporters starting at 8 p.m. on May 17, was admissible in court, Ong said: "*Dapat* (It should be)."

"These people have clearly connived to manipulate and falsify the election returns," he said, adding that it was operations like this that had caused the PPC candidates to lose heavily in Northern Samar.

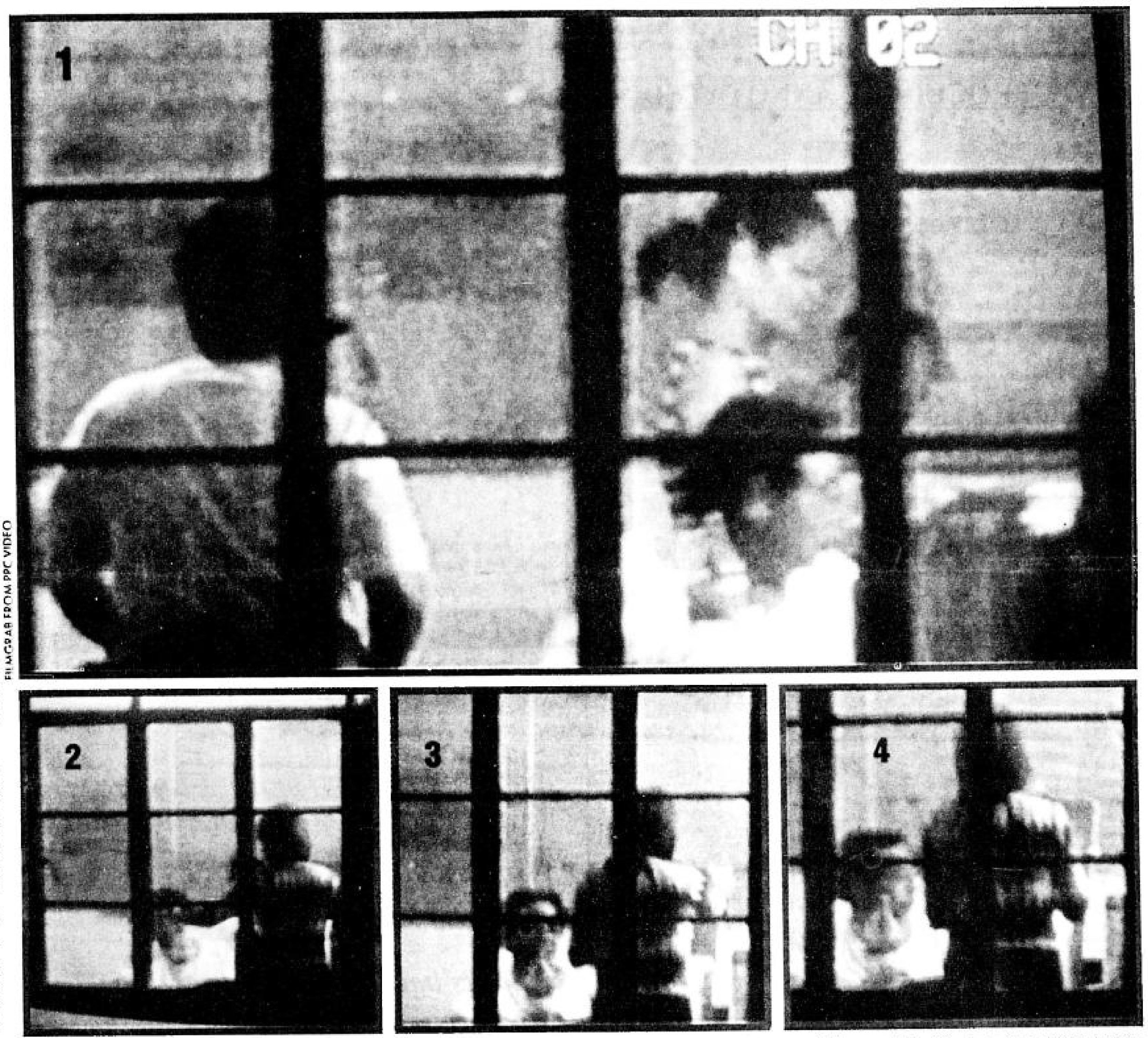
Syndicates are now in the business of rigging elections, and one based in Manila may have helped some candidates win through *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving), Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday at a news briefing.

Pimentel said he had received reports and complaints that the syndicate, supposedly made up of ex-employees of the Commission on Elections, conducted massive fraud in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Baguio.

"(The syndicate members') loy-

PPC/ A16

FILMGRAB FROM PPC VIDEO



PORTRAIT of alleged fraud at the municipal hall of San Isidro, Northern Samar, on May 17, between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.: 1. Municipal election officer Juchita Collamar-Sy approaches ballot box beside DECS district supervisor Eduardo Jumadiao; 2, 3, 4, Sy opens box, takes out brown envelopes containing ballots.

Name it, Erap has it: Bronchitis, arthritis . . .

BY DONNA S. CUETO

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada is suffering from chronic bronchitis with localized emphysema as well as "minimal" osteoporosis and weak arthritic knees, and he needs medical treatment that could keep him out of his remote Sta. Rosa, Laguna, detention center for at least two more weeks.

Doctors at the government-run Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City submitted a report to the Sandiganbayan yesterday saying that Estrada needed to take antibiotics and undergo more tests.

They said San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada had a slightly high cholesterol level and "lateral wall ischemia," which indicated an inadequate blood supply due to a blockage of the blood vessels. He also needs more tests.

Estrada and Jinggoy were transferred from their Sta. Rosa detention center to the VMMC on May

NAME/ A16

Gloria vows healing missions

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced she would embark on "healing" missions to Metro Manila's slums and Mindanao's Christian communities, two constituencies that rejected her senatorial candidates in the May 14 elections.

The President also sought the help of the private sector in alleviating the plight of the poor and restoring peace in war-torn areas.

"The work that we must do now . . . is to heal our nation," Ms Macapagal said in a speech to the First Asian Women Volunteers Congress, a private initiative aimed at mobilizing women in projects for the poor.

GLORIA/ A16

Heavy losses forced SSS to borrow ₱7.4B last year

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

FOR THE first time in its 44-year history, the Social Security System was forced to borrow billions last year because of "liquidity problems" due to heavy losses from bad investments during the Estrada administration, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

The pension fund for employees in the private sector drew a P7.4-billion loan in the form of "short-term credit lines" from the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth) and the First Metro Investment Corp., the documents showed.

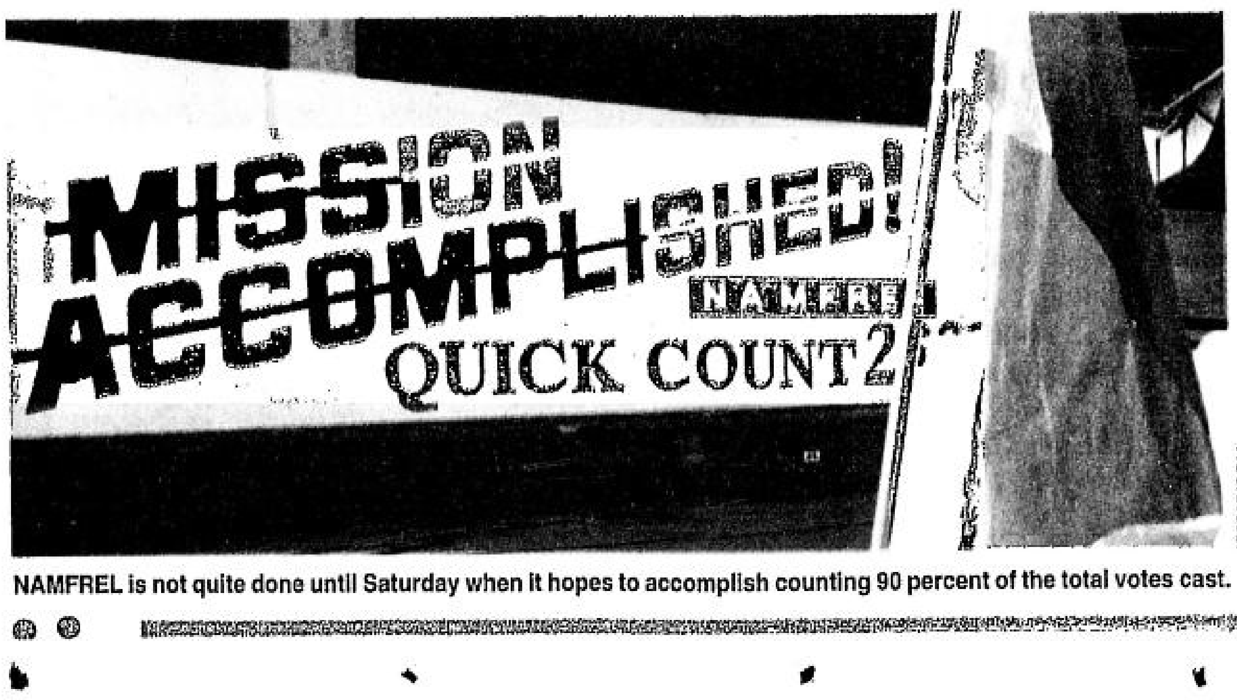
Although there is no provision in its charter that authorizes the SSS to borrow money, Carlos Arellano, the agency's former chair and president, ordered the borrowing on Jan. 7, 2000.

In a memorandum, Arellano said the loans, "with repayment periods of not more than one year," were necessary to "satisfy the liquidity requirements of the SSS."

Employees of the 23-million member SSS have asked the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption to look into the alleged "irregular transaction."

They urged government investigators to zero in on top SSS offi-

HEAVY/ A17



JESS YUSON

NAMFREL is not quite done until Saturday when it hopes to accomplish counting 90 percent of the total votes cast.

COMELEC

As of 7 p.m., May 21

28 out of 102 Certificates of Canvass

1	DE CASTRO	3,544,704
2	FLAVIER	2,290,127
3	ANGARA	2,238,627
4	EJERCITO	2,222,622
5	HONASAN	2,187,138
6	LACSON	2,186,512
7	ARROYO	2,168,100
8	RECTO	2,162,884
9	MAGSAYSAY	2,143,484
10	DRILON	2,126,591
11	OSMEÑA	2,116,168
12	VILLAR	2,101,335
13	PANGILINAN	2,096,300
14	ENRILE	1,996,636
15	SANTIAGO	1,980,619
16	PUNO	1,778,392
17	MERCADO	1,530,521
18	TAÑADA	1,521,147
19	PAGDANGANAN	1,245,410
20	MONSOD	1,243,328
21	HERRERA	1,213,221
22	MADRIGAL	1,046,944
23	RASUL	984,188
24	CHATO	878,235
25	YASAY	820,027

Recto now No. 8 in Comelec count

BY ROCKY NAZARENO, GERALD LACUARTA AND CYNTHIA BALANA

LEANING on his strong showing in Southern Luzon, Ralph Recto jumped to eighth place from the 13th slot before the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) went on recess at 7:15 last night.

Puwersa ng Masa candidates led by Edgardo Angara, who was in third place, moved up and occupied all but two of the top six slots. But it was still 8-4-1 for the administration's People Power Coalition.

The NBC had so far canvassed 28 COCs with 74 more to be tallied.

Also yesterday, the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) was not able to release any figures for the senatorial and party-list race because it had to

RECTO/ A16

ERIK ARAZAS

TANCANGCO: Not me, it was Benipayo who shelved modernization program.

Estrada house arrest still up to Sandigan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to have special quarters built for Joseph Estrada in the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center compound will not translate to a government decision allowing his house arrest.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez made this clear yesterday in a news conference, saying the decision of whether house arrest would be allowed "depends on the

ESTRADA/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

ABANGAN ANG SUSUNOD NA KATOTOHANAN

Senate to probe Comelec on MAD

PRODDED by party-list groups, the Senate will investigate the Commission on Elections for allowing Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga to participate in the May 14 polls when it is a government-sponsored organization. MAD is leading the party-list count.

Sen. Blas Ople filed yesterday Senate Resolution 940 seeking a probe into the Comelec's accreditation of MAD.

At the same time, party-list group leaders led by Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales went to see Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to show him the Dangerous Drugs Board's 1999 annual report which said MAD was given a P5-million budget for its operations.

MAD is headed by actor Richard Gomez.

In a letter to Pimentel, the eight party-list organizations asked the Senate to make a "clear finding on the qualification of MAD" which they had dubbed a "pseudo party-list" group.

The groups reminded the Senate that even before the last elections, the Department of Justice had come out with an opinion disqualifying MAD.*Christine Avendaño*

Tancangco defends poll modernization

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND ROCKY NAZARENO

IT WAS the Comelec en banc, and not Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco alone, who approved the modernization projects that were aborted before the May 14 polls and that are now the subject of an impending investigation by Congress.

Commissioner Mehol Sadain said the awarding of a P6.5-billion contract to Photokina Marketing Corp. for the Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS) project was made by the commission en banc in December.

"It was transparent all along, from the policy-making to the evaluation and the awarding because the program was even presented by Tancangco to the senior staff for their comments," said Sadain at a Westin Philippine Plaza forum yesterday.

Tancangco got embroiled in more controversy after former Comelec chair Harriet Demetriou said over the weekend that she (Demetriou) was willing to testify before Congress on the shelving of the modernization projects that led to enormous problems in the recently held May 14 elections.

Tancangco chairs the Comelec modernization committee.

Sadain said Demetriou even defended the VRIS and two other projects, Precinct Mapping and the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results System (Accors), in budget hearings in Congress last year.

Sadain, who was part of the Demetriou commission, said "what really bogged down" negotiations with Photokina was the firm's insistence on funding of P1.9 billion for the first year of implementation, but the poll body only had P1.2 billion.

"I asked Harriet then in front of Sadain if she saw any problem with the (bidding) process or if she thought I was favoring anybody and she said, 'no, I have no problem with you Luz,'" Tancangco said.

Tancangco said Demetriou shelved the VRIS after the Department of Budget and Management opined that the Comelec could not enter into multi-year contracts under the General Appropriations Act.

"This is consistent with our documents and Congress is welcome to them," she said.

Amid calls for her impeachment, Tancangco said she is willing to relinquish the chairmanship of the modernization committee, as long as Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo could assure her it would be "to the advantage of the electoral system."

"No problem, I'm easy to talk to," Tancangco said.

National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) chair Jose Concepcion had called for Tancangco's impeachment, blaming her for the failure of Comelec to modernize the polls.

Tancangco said it was Benipayo who wanted to shelve the modernization program beginning with the Precinct Mapping project.

She said that instead of consulting her as chair of the modernization committee, Benipayo based his decision to scrap the project "after consultations with senior and field officials."

"It's a question of leadership, how you conduct business," she said.

Regarding Demetriou's willingness to testify on alleged irregularities in the modernization program, Tancangco said, "I don't know if that's intrigue. I don't want to believe that. (Demetriou) knows what I did during her term.

"They have all their documents and I have mine. It was the Benipayo administration that shelved the modernization program," Tancangco said.

Commissioner Resurreccion Borra will reportedly replace Tancangco on the modernization committee.

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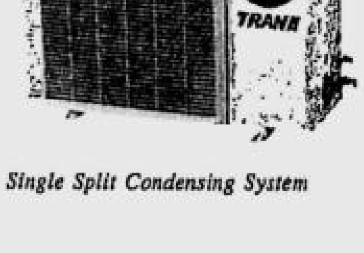

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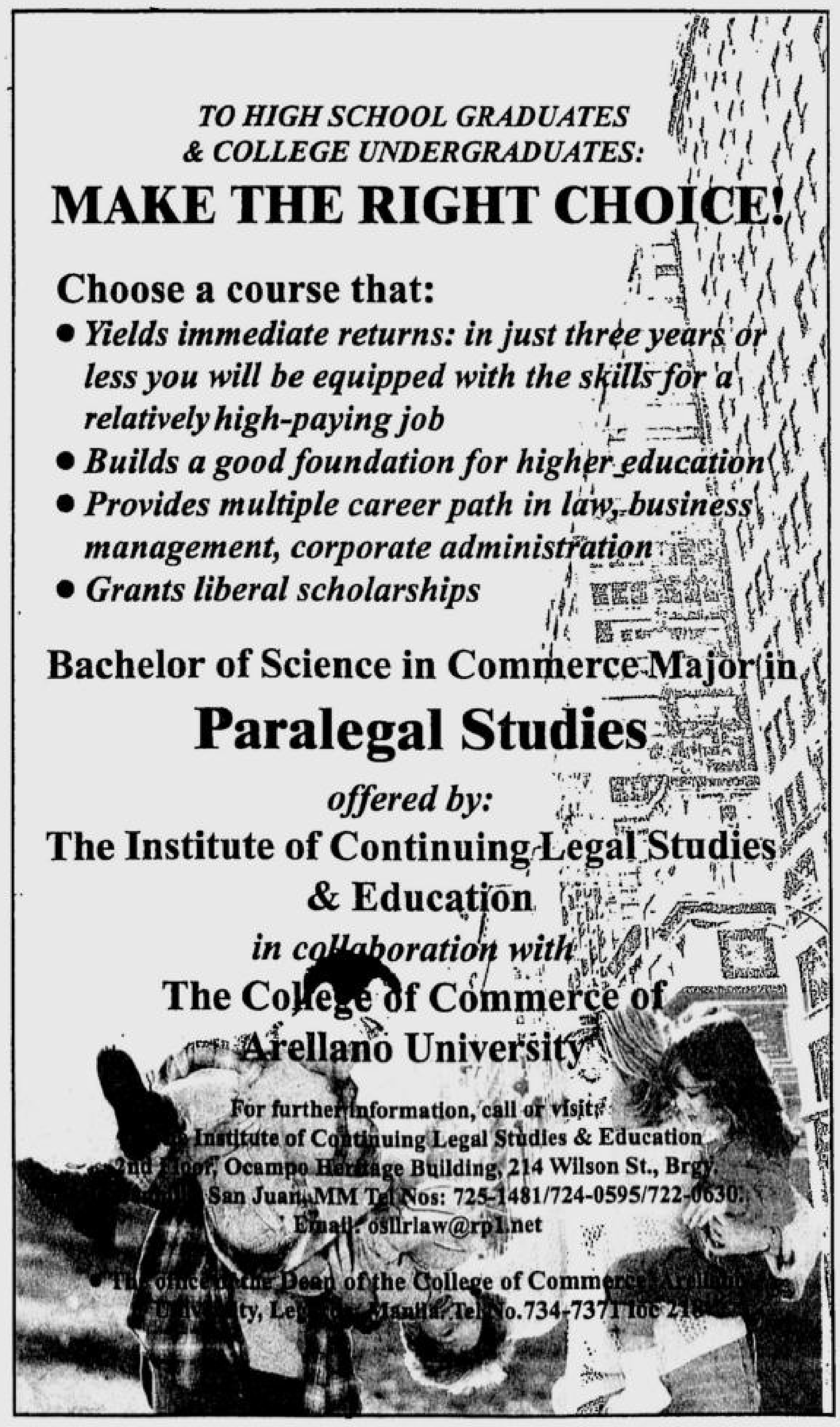

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Lacson foe says Senate not a place for criminals

By Jowel F. Canuday
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A group of Philippine National Police officials, backed by members of the Rebolusyanaryong Alyansang Makabansa, has initiated a crusade to ensure that ex-national police chief Panfilo Lacson will go to jail even if he wins a Senate seat.

"The Senate is not a place for criminals," said Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, the PNP regional chief in Southern Mindanao and a board member of RAM.

Matillano said the group, made up of officers from the "Reform PNP" movement and the RAM, is stepping up efforts to pursue various cases against Lacson.

Matillano is a member of the collective leadership of the PNP reform movement.

Lacson has consistently maintained his position in the "Magic 13" winning circle in both the Commission on Elections and the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections vote counts.

Matillano said the group wants to send the message both to the people and Lacson that even if he is elected, it would not mean he will be exonerated from the crimes being imputed to him.

He said the move to nail Lacson is a "collective effort" by officers in the Reform PNP and the RAM as they have personal knowledge of Lacson's alleged criminal offenses.

The officers are confident Lacson can be prosecuted under Republic Act 4200, or the Anti-Wiretapping Law, for allegedly bugging the phones of practically almost all ranking officials of the PNP and the offices of its special task forces in 1998.

Matillano, who was then the head of the PNP's Task Force Amihan anti-kidnapping group, discovered the bugs and raided the quarters of the defunct Special Project Alpha, then headed by Lacson.

Lacson filed illegal search and grave coercion charges against Matillano for the raid but the Sandiganbayan last month dismissed the case.

The decision prompted Matillano to file a motion before the Ombudsman to reopen the anti-wiretapping case against Lacson who could be imprisoned for a maximum of six years if convicted.

Matillano said the group has in its possession hundreds of tapes containing recordings allegedly made by Lacson and his group on PNP officers and Lakas-NUCD officials that will finally nail the ex-national police chief.

Since there are 120 tapes, Lacson could be liable for thousands of counts of violations of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, he said.

Matillano said the group has also gathered solid evidence and more witnesses to testify against Lacson in the 1995 Kuratong Baleleng rub-out case.

He said some police units are also securing additional witnesses and more evidence to corroborate the exposé made by undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong on Lacson's alleged involvement in kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Both the Kuratong Baleleng and the "Rosebud" cases have been endorsed by the PNP to the justice department, which is now conducting a preliminary investigation.

Matillano said the group will pursue the cases even if they anticipate that Lacson would cry "political harassment and black propaganda" by the Macapagal administration.

Gloria's car stalls

THE presidential limousine broke down yesterday and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had to take a back-up vehicle to return to Malacañang.

The incident occurred after she visited Pepita Aquino, a long-time friend, who was being treated at the St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City.

Aquino was having dialysis, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Asked what happened to the car, Tiglao said he does not know.

"I noticed that last Saturday, mechanics were tinkering with the car. I think they were unable to fix it," Tiglao said.

Ms Macapagal returned to the Palace on board a Pajero, one of her back-up vehicles.

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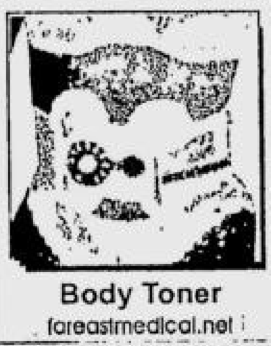

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JUNE

Date	Course	Time
1,2	Baking Intermediate Level	10 a.m. -3 p.m.
15, 16	Commercial Baking	10 a.m. -3 p.m.
16	Espresso 101	1 -5 p.m.
16	International Entree for Caterers	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
16	Flavors of Spain	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
23	Chicken, chicken, chicken	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
23	Korean Cooking	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
23	Cakes & Pastries	10 a.m. -3 p.m.
23 - 24	The Art of Sausage Making	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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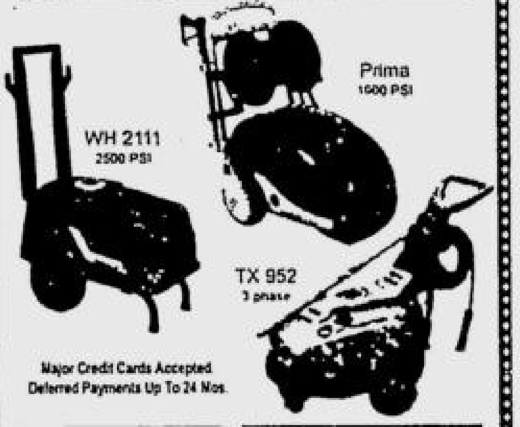

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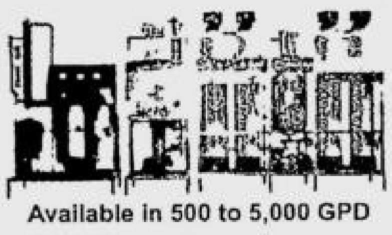

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PHA 2001

32nd Annual Convention

May 23 - 26, 2001

EDSA Shangri-La Manila, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

Theme:

"Newer Advancements for Better Cardiovascular Care"

MESSAGES

I convey my warmest felicitations to the **Philippine Heart Association, Inc.** on its 32nd Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting.

Through the years, the PHAI has contributed to the improvement of professional standards and health care services to heart patients in our country. By improving the health care of Filipinos, we are making a vital investment in our country's future. The fulfillment of total health care among our people enables them to reach their fullest potential as individuals and as members of our society. More importantly, a healthy individual spawns a healthy family and a healthy community.

I hope this momentous gathering with the theme, *"Newer Advancements for Better Cardiovascular Care,"* will serve as a venue to address issues and concerns crucial to the advancement of cardiology and health care services to the general public.

I wish the success of this convention and urge the PHAI to pursue policies that will ensure the accessibility of preventive health care and maintenance to the marginalized sectors of society as we cope with the rapid and sweeping developments in this era of modernization.

The transition to a new administration beckons the task of nation-building. I hope PHAI will also contribute to our efforts to promote the virtues of good governance, responsible citizenship, social justice and sustainable development. Join me in rebuilding this nation towards greater peace, prosperity and stability.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Warm felicitations to the men and women of the Philippine Heart Association, Inc. and the Philippine College of Cardiology on its 32nd Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting.

The risks of cardiovascular diseases increasingly threaten the health of Filipinos today. In response, the Department of Health aims to provide health care services at all levels in a sustainable and cost-effective manner through the Health Sector Reform Agenda (HSRA).

The cooperation and support of the local government and the private sector is essential to sustain appropriate measures in the prevention and control of diseases.

I trust that your commitment to the ideals and objectives of the HSRA to provide quality services and equity in access to health care will not waver as the government exerts its best to improve the health of our nation.

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

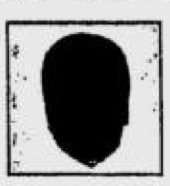
Sincerest felicitations from the Philippine Medical Association to the officers and members of the Philippine Heart Association, Inc. Philippine College of Cardiology, on the occasion of its 32nd Annual Convention.

The PMA heartily commends the PHA in providing opportunities for cardiologists to update and enhance their expertise and knowledge in addressing heart ailments, besides keeping them abreast with recent developments in the field of cardiology. This will also help in raising public awareness amoing our people about cardiovascular diseases and the risks that these ailments pose on the populace.

Once again, please rally to our cause, "PMA — Onwards to a Healthy Philippines by the Third Millennium". Together let us make our land a place of wealth in wellness.

Congratulations and mabuhay ang Philippine Heart Association, Inc.

NENITA C. LEE-TAN
President. Philippine Medical Association



The annual gathering of members of the Philippine Heart Association is an occasion for great celebration. We have reason to rejoice the conclusion of a very productive year and the mere fact that our association has weathered another one challenging time is already a huge accomplishment.

Of course there are ups and downs to every administrative term. While we cherish the great strides in our healthy lifestyle campaign and the start of a serious attention to advocacy of selected national issues, we have learned as well that there remains great tasks yet unaccomplished. Some of these resilient challenges concern our membership itself. Not unlike other professional organizations, we are beset by problems brought about by indifference of some of our members. But we always take pleasure in the idea that we have been several times compensated by the enthusiastic cooperation and superb dedication of a good number of other members.

We look forward to another fruitful interaction with both our general membership and a lot of other students of cardiology.

Welcome to the 32nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Heart Association!

NOE A. BABILONIA, M.D.
President, Philippine Heart Association

Dear Colleague,

We have great pleasure in announcing the Philippine Heart Association 32nd Annual Convention which will be held on May 23-26, 2001 at the Shangri-La EDSA Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

As healthcare professionals face many obstacles in the care of cardiac patients, the cardiology community must look into newer diagnostic and therapeutic options as more discoveries are made. Thus, working upon the theme ***"Newer Advancements for Better Cardiovascular Care"***, the Organizing Committee has come up with a stimulating program that will explore these evolving strategies in order to achieve optimal clinical outcomes.

Once again, please join us on these dates to further slentific exchanges and encourage personal contacts.

ANNETTE P. BORROMEO, M.D.
Secretary and Overall Convention Chairman
Philippine Heart Association

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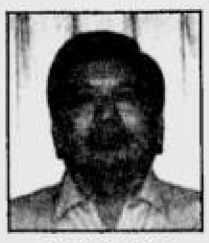

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

May 23, 2001, Wednesday	
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	CONVOCATION AND OPENING OF EXHIBITS
7:00 p.m.	WELCOME BANQUET (Isla Ballroom)
May 24, 2001, Thursday AM	
PHARMA 01 7:00 8:30	BREAKFAST SYMPOSIA Management of Persistent Atrial Fibrillation Carlo de Pilar MD Sanofi (Isla 1)
PLENARY 01 9:00 10:00	H.B. CALLEJA PROFESSORIAL LECTURE Chair Norbert Lingling D. Uy MD New Strategies for the Prevention and Control of Rheumatic Fever Rheumatic Heart Disease Santiago V. Guzman MD
POSTER 01	MODERATED POSTER SESSIONS (Sulu Lower Lobby)
10:00 - 10:30	VISIT EXHIBITS/COFFEE BREAK
SYMPOSIUM 01	SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS (Isla Ballroom) NEW CPR UPDATES (Isla 1) Co-Chairs [illegible] B. Bravo MD Maureen M. Santos MD
10:30-11:00	Updates on Adult Basic Life Support - Oscar P. Pajawa Jr. MD
11:00-11:30	Updates on Defibrillation - [illegible] S. [illegible] MD
11:30-12:00	Updates on Advanced Cardiac Life Support - [illegible] M. [illegible] MD
12:00 - 12:30	Updates on Pediatric Life Support - Eduardo P. Manrique MD
	HYPERTENSION (ISLA 3) Co-Chairs Leandro C. [illegible] MD Lope C. [illegible] MD
10:30-11:00	Management Approach on Hypertension in Special Population - Jorge A. Sison MD
11:00-11:30	Treatment Options for Hypertension: Now and into the Future - May D. Tan MD
11:30-12:00	Target Organ Protection in Hypertension - J. Antonio L. Bautista MD
12:00 - 12:30	Newer Agents in Hypertension Management - Aniceto G. Panelo MD
	CV SURGERY/INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY (Isla 3) Co-Chairs Gilbert C. Vilela MD Delfin V. Encarnacion III MD
10:30-11:00	Can Aggressive Stenting Compare Favorably with Surgical Revascularization in Patients with Multivessel Disease? - Ana A. Miranda MD
11:00-11:30	Multivessel CAD: The Case for Surgery - Aquiles C. Roc MD
11:30-12:00	Late Breaking Clinical Trials in Interventional Cardiology - Gregorio S. Martinez Jr. MD
PM PHARMA 02 12:30 2:30	LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIA The CAD Continuum: From Risk to Therapeutic Intervention - Antonio S. Sibulo Jr MD Pfizer (Isla 1) Advances in the Management of Ischemic Heart Disease: Role of Metabolic Therapy Prof. Mario Marzilli Servier (Isla 2) CAVEAT "New Evidence in Cardiovascular Protection" - Dante D. Morales MD Bayer (Isla 3)
2:30-3:00	VISIT EXHIBITS/COFFEE BREAK
ORAL 01 3:30-5:00	ORAL FREE COMMUNICATIONS 1 (Isla 1) Chairman Eugene B. Reyes MD Co-Chair Antonio C. Pascual MD
SPECIAL 01	PHA - SERVIER AWARD for the MOST OUTSTANDING RESEARCH in CARDIOLOGY (Isla 2)
3:30-5:00 SPECIAL 02	FRANCISCO F. TANGCO - YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARD (Isla 3)
3:30-5:00 PHARMA 03	DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIA
5:00-7:00	New Insights in the Management of Heart Failure (The VAL-HEFT Trial) - Mario Baltazar MD Novartis (Isla 1) Management of Acute Coronary Syndrome Nestor S. Abelardo MD Sanofi (Isla 2) Philippine Approval Clinical Trial - Luis Raymond T. Go MD Sanofi (Isla 2)
7:00	BARRIO FIESTA (Hotel Poolside)
May 25, 2001, Friday AM	
PHARMA 04 7:00 8:30	BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM Towards a New Global Standards - A Glimpse of the Future - Nestor S. Abelardo MD Astra-Zeneca (Isla 2) Diastolic Dysfunction: The Other Side of Heart Failure Adolfo B. Bellosillo MD G.D. Searle (Isla 3)
PLENARY 02	RODOLFO C. SOTO PROFESSORIAL LECTURE Chair Mariano B. Lopez MD
9:00 - 9:30	New Treatments in Atrial Fibrillation - Randall L. Lee MD
9:30 - 9:50	Current and Newer Options in the Diagnosis of Heart Failure - Romeo K. Divinagracia MD
9:50 - 10:10	PDE - 5 Inhibition and Endothelial Function and Heart Failure - Marc L. Semigran MD
POSTER 02	MODERATED POSTER SESSIONS (Sulu Lower Lobby)
10:00 - 10:30	VISIT EXHIBITS/COFFEE BREAK
SYMPOSIUM 02	SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS (Isla Ballroom) RF-RHD/CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (Isla 1) Co-Chairs Ricardo G. de Leon MD Concepcion L. Santos MD
10:30 - 11:00	Approach to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease - Edson T. Ty MD
11:00 - 11:30	Arrhythmias in Infancy - Magdalena J. Lagamayo MD
11:30 - 12:00	Trends in the Management of Infants with CHD - Aurelia G. Leus MD
12:00 - 12:30	Long-Term Follow-Up of CHD Adult Patient - Post Intervention - Ernan R. Vicado MD Business Meeting, RF-RHD Foundation follows
	ECHO CARDIOMYOPATHY (Isla 2) Co-Chairs Marietta M. Crisostomo MD Louie S. Tirador MD
10:30 - 11:00	Clinical Utility of Echo in Patients with Congestive Heart Failure - Gregorio G. Rogelio MD
11:00 - 11:30	Clinical Utility of Echo in Prognostification Following MI Mary Ong Go MD
11:30 - 12:00	Interventions in the Management of Hypertrophic Dilated Cardiomyopathy - Gary A. Lopez MD
12:00 - 12:30	Clinical Approach to Cor Pulmonale - May Ann S. Lao, MD
	CV SURGERY/INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY/CV ANESTHESIA (Isla 3) Co-Chairs Lorenzo Rommel G. Cama MD Manuel Ignacio E. Esmeña MD
10:30 - 11:30	Critical Appraisal of Carotid Artery Stenosis - James O. Ho MD
11:00 - 11:30	Critical Appraisal of Surgical Management of Carotid Artery Stenosis - Florimond A. Garcia MD
11:30 - 12:00	Off Pump - CABG - Gerardo S. Manzo MD
12:00 - 12:30	Anesthesia for Off-Pump CABG - Adelina S. Lim, MD
PM PHARMA 05 12:30 - 2:30	LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIA Prolonging Life Beyond Symptomatic Relief - Marietta M. Crisostomo MD Oscar P. Pajawa Jr. MD, Eugene B. Reyes MD, Erwin O. del Rosario MD, Roche (Garden Ballroom) Treating Nicotine Dependents: Role of Drug Treatment and Behavioral Support Lino Covey MD, Glaxo Smith Kline (Isla 1) Long Lasting Calcium Channel Blockers on Hypertension: Good or Bad? Esperanza I. Cabral MD Therapharma (Isla 2) Benefits of Aggressive Lipid Lowering Jeffrey Gelburn MD Pfizer (Isla 3)
ORAL 02 2:30 - 3:30	ORAL FREE COMMUNICATIONS 2 (A Isla 2 & B Isla 3) Chairman Jaime F. Caveiro Jr. MD Chairman Felix Eduardo R. Punzalan Jr. MD
3:00 5:00	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (Isla 1)
PHARMA 06 5:00 7:00	DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIA Simvastatin Treats Asians to Target: An Asian Titrate to Goal Study - Dante D. Morales MD (Isla 3) Benefits of RAAS Blockade in Hypertensive Patients with Diabetes - Eduardo S. Caguioa MD MSD (Isla 3)
7:00	THE PRESIDENT'S NIGHT (Lubang) Free Night
May 26, 2001, Saturday AM	
PLENARY 03	Chair Edgardo E. Ortiz MD PHA ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN
9:00 - 9:20	Current Anti-Smoking Strategies: Global Perspective - Lino S. Covey MD
9:20 - 9:50	Economic Impact of Smoking in the Philippines - Antonio L. Dans MD
9:50 - 10:10	Anti-Smoking Campaign in the Philippines: Where Are We Now? - Mariano B. Lopez MD
10:10 - 10:30	VISIT EXHIBITS/COFFEE BREAK
SYMPOSIUM 03	SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS (Isla Ballroom) ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY (Isla 1) Co-Chairs George J. Pangan MD Anthony B. King MD
10:30 - 11:00	Radio Frequency Catheter Ablation: State of the Art - Eugene Parma MD
11:00 - 11:30	Changes in ACLS Guidelines 2000 - Treatment of Algorithms for VF, VT, SVT - Josephine Rose P. Saligan MD
11:30 - 12:00	Management of Atrial Fibrillation - Raul D. Jara MD
12:00 12:30	Antiarrhythmic Drugs: Practical Knowledge and Safe Use - Edgardo S. Timbol MD
	CARDIAC REHABILITATION (Isla 2) Co-Chairs Doroteo L. Uy MD Manuel B. Zacarias MD
10:30 - 11:00	Exercise Prescription in Cardiac Patients - Marissa P. Josor MD
11:00 - 11:30	Cardiac Rehabilitation: Is It Cost Effective? - Rene B. Lorico MD
11:30 - 12:00	Cardiac Rehabilitation of an MI Patient - Carlos Ponciano R. Esguerra MD
12:00 - 12:30	Community-Based Cardiac Rehabilitation: Is It Feasible in the Philippine Setting? - Aurelio C. Esguerra MD
	PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY/PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE (Isla 3) Co-Chairs Jaime L. Pacifico MD Jose S. Paz MD
10:30 - 11:00	Overall Risk Assessment and Primary Prevention in CAD - Cesar S. Recto II MD
11:00 - 11:30	Non-Invasive Test of Atherosclerosis Burden - Ma. Teresa B. Abola MD
11:30 - 12:00	Results of Trans Atlantic Inter Society Consensus on the Management of Peripheral Vascular Diseases Fatima R. Collado MD
12:00 - 12:30	Presentation of DOCFIT Results - Felix Eduardo R. Punzalan Jr. MD
PM PHARMA 06 12:30 - 2:30	LUNCH SATTELITE SYMPOSIA Endothelial Dysfunction and Ischemic Events - Rafael R. Castillo MD Pfizer (Isla 2)
2:30 - 3:00	VISIT EXHIBITS/COFFEE BREAK
PLENARY 04	HYPERTENSION/LIPIDOLOGY (Isla 1) Co-Chair Joselito L. Atabug MD
3:00 - 3:20	Hypertension Is Not an Isolated Issue - Rafael R. Castillo MD
3:20 - 3:40	Issues and Concerns on Hypertension - Ramon F. Abarquez Jr. MD
3:40 - 4:00	Implications on Recent Clinical Trials in Lipid Management - Rody G. Sy MD
7:00	CLOSING CEREMONIES and CHAPTERS' NIGHT

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Chopper maker joins Palawan crash probe

By TJ Burgonio

EXPERTS from the United States-based engine manufacturer of the Bell-407 helicopter that crashed outside Puerto Princesa last Friday have arrived to help in the investigation of the accident.

Air Transportation Office investigators, who inspected the burned chopper at the crash site last Saturday, initially eyed engine malfunction because of the use of adulterated fuel as the cause of the crash.

Two experts from the Rolls Royce Engine Services-Oakland Inc., led by Dave Schaffar, flew into Manila early yesterday and met with ATO chief Adelberto Yap.

Rolls Royce is the manufacturer of the Bell-407 helicopter's Allison engine. The engine, though badly burned, was still intact.

"We asked them (the manufacturer) to come because we need their technical expertise. They'll serve as our consultants. Besides, it's best that we involve everyone concerned," Yap said.

Six people, including the mother of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, were killed after the helicopter crashed into a bamboo thicket in Barangay Manalo, 40 km north of Puerto Princesa, Palawan on Friday afternoon.

Three hours later, an Air Force Sikorsky helicopter which was sent to retrieve the bodies from the Bell-407 crash, also went down after it got entangled in power lines, killing all seven airmen on board.

Yap, who has ruled out sabotage as the cause of the crash, said it was likely that the helicopter experienced engine trouble because of the use of adulterated fuel.

The helicopter, owned by the Jaka Group of the Enrile family, had stopped for fuel at a refueling station in El Nido before flying back to Puerto Princesa.

Yap said the refueling station was notorious for stocking fuel mixed with water and was shunned by most pilots.

He said that the ATO control tower at the Puerto Princesa airport did not receive any distress call from the helicopter pilot, Capt. Renato Marukot, who last radioed the tower to request landing clearance while still 18 miles away.

"We'll know the probable cause anytime this week," said Yap.

The ATO has ordered all Bell-407 helicopters grounded until the cause of the Palawan crash is determined and until after these aircraft have undergone the necessary maintenance checks.

At least seven air charter operators in Manila, including Jaka, use the Bell-407 helicopter model.

AFP to launch attacks vs NPA

By Carlito Pablo

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines will launch punitive strikes against the communist New People's Army after the election season ends on June 14.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the military operations would be centered primarily in areas where poll-related acts of violence were committed by the rebels.

Reyes spoke with reporters after a command conference of military top brass and field commanders at AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Reyes said President Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed the military to go after the NPA, particularly for the killings they owned up to during the election period and for their collection of "permit-to-campaign" fees.

"After the situation normalizes—after the elections—we will realign the armed forces to respond to the directive of the President," Reyes said.

The NPA has claimed responsibility for two high-profile killings during the last campaign – those of Batangas gubernatorial candidate Cesar Platon and Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr.

Reyes, former AFP chief of staff, said the military's forces were strained last year with their deployment against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

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Guingona visits Singaporean PM

SINGAPORE—Vice President Teofisto Guingona met yesterday with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on the Singapore leg of a three-nation swing of Southeast Asia.

No details of the discussions were released but a statement issued by the ministry of foreign affairs here on Friday said their talks were expected to concentrate on bilateral ties and developments in the region.

Guingona, who leaves Singapore for China for an Asia-Europe meeting, also held talks with Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar.

Officials said Guingona, who also holds the portfolio of foreign minister, would discuss a possible visit by new President Macapagal-Arroyo to neighboring nations.

Guingona's trip to neighbors Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore follows May 14 congressional and local elections in the Philippines widely seen as a referendum on the Macapagal administration.

Ms Macapagal was swept to power in January without an electoral mandate, having assumed the presidency after a military-backed civilian uprising toppled the corruption-tainted government of President Joseph Estrada.

In an interview with Singapore-based Channel NewsAsia aired on Monday, Guingona said the results of an exit poll showing pro-Macapagal candidates capturing eight of 13 seats up for grabs in the 24-member senate were encouraging.

"If that happens, then it is a sign that the administration can carry out its priorities in a more definitive manner," he said. *AFP*

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OPINION

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What proxy war?

EDITORIAL

LAST week, the defense team of deposed President Joseph Estrada scraped the bottom of the legal barrel with an argument that was not only factually flimsy but stunningly stupid.

Place Estrada under house arrest now, his lawyers argued before the Sandiganbayan, because—among other considerations—the results of the May 14 elections vindicated their position. The election results, they said, show that people want the former president to enjoy the privilege of a house arrest.

The premise of this particular argument, that the recent polls were a referendum on a specific judicial issue, must have been news for the justices of the anti-graft court. Let's leave it up to the Sandiganbayan to straighten out the Estrada defense team's loopy logic. Suffice it to say, for now, that this kind of thinking assumes an even larger meaning for the electoral exercise, that it was nothing less than a proxy war between the previous administration and the current one.

Was it? If many members of the country's commentariat were prone to think so, a big part of the blame must be laid at the door of the Macapagal administration. Its all-or-nothing, 13-0 campaign strategy was tantamount to painting the elections in black and white.

It must be said, however, that the Puwersa ng Masa coalition responded to this either-or approach with equal fervor, cultivating an us-versus-them campaign strategy that, as its slogan *Walang iwanan*! suggested, emphasized loyalty above all other virtues.

That's how the leaders fought the campaign. Is that how the people voted? Were the May 14 elections truly a proxy war between Estrada and Ms Macapagal?

It's hard to say, because the results are mixed.

On the same day that his defense counsel went to the anti-graft court, Estrada gave interviews in which he expressed elation at the defeat of fellow movie stars Nora Aunor and Bong Revilla, who had turned against him at the height of Edsa II, and even former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, two Estrada Cabinet officials who also jumped ship last January.

But the former president's memory is extremely selective. He chose to forget the defeat of two movie actors close to his son Jinggoy, Rudy Fernandez and Philip Salvador. He chose to forget the defeat of good friend, fellow actor and former Censors chief Armida Siguion-Reyna or the reelection of Vilma Santos. He also chose to forget the reelection of two popular movie stars who are long-standing political enemies: Lito Lapid of Pampanga and Rey Malonzo of Caloocan.

Estrada may have also forgotten, mere days after the election, that Mercado was a guest candidate of the PnM. If he was elated at Mercado's failure to return to the Senate, why did he include him in his slate in the first place?

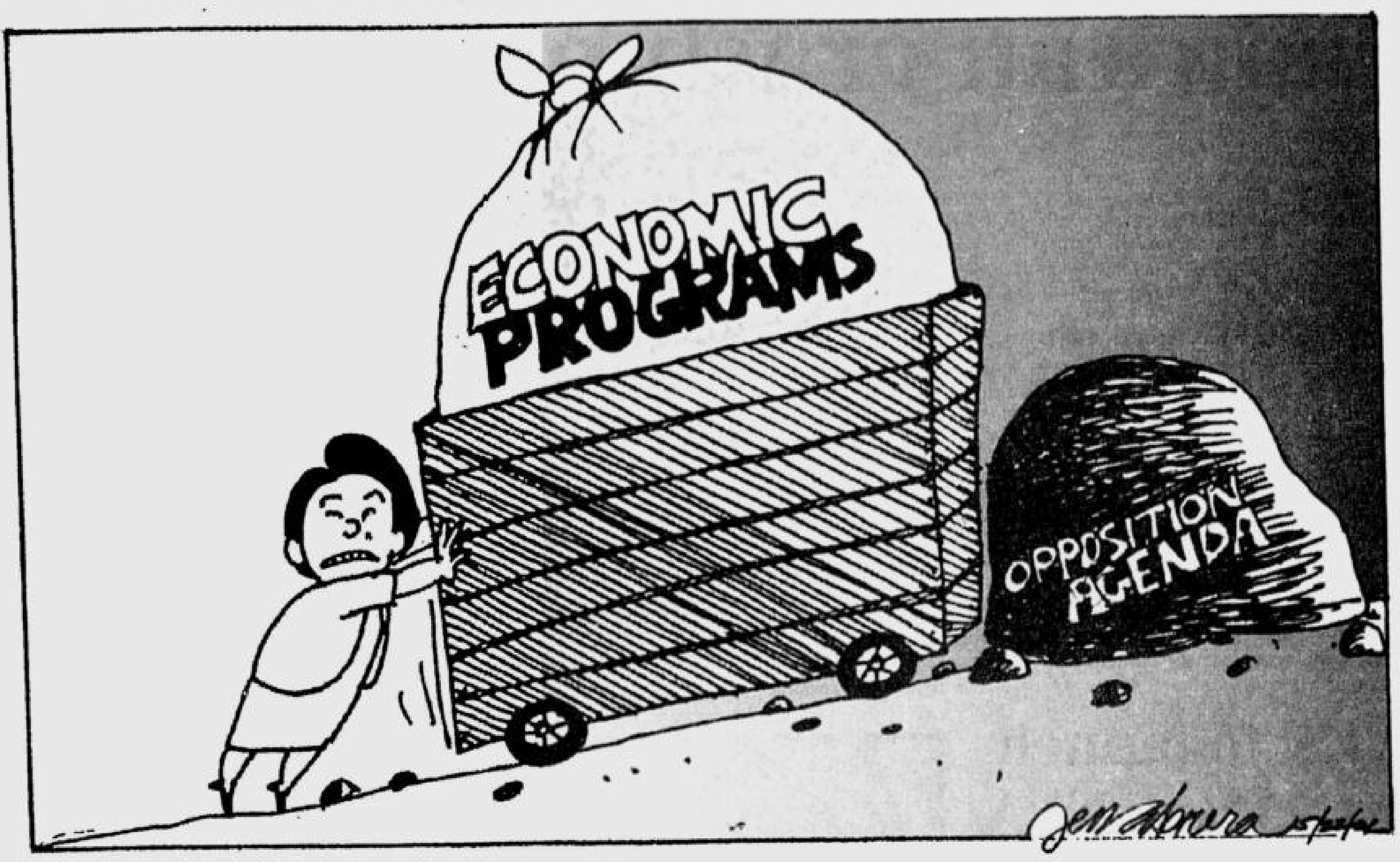
(Selective memory of the reverse sort is also evident in the recent pronouncements of Sen. Tito Sotto. Why do media outlets insist on labeling broadcaster-topnotcher Noli de Castro as an independent, he asked, when De Castro was also a guest candidate of the PnM? Sotto seems to have forgotten that his coalition had all but dropped De Castro from the slate, none of the other candidates even bothering to mention his name during their *miting de avance*.)

The truth is, the 2001 elections can be read in many ways.

One can offer the argument that the polls were sweet vindication for Estrada, because it looks likely that four of his candidates, including his wife Loi, will be members of the next Senate. But by the same token, the elections can also be read as a validation of Edsa II and the events that led up to it, including the Chavit Singson exposé, the Blue Ribbon hearings, and the unprecedented impeachment trial.

Consider the electoral fortunes of Joker Arroyo and Manny Villar. Both three-term representatives, they had lagged in surveys for many years. It was only when Villar impeached Estrada in the House, and when Arroyo directly attacked Estrada in the Senate, that both started enjoying the popularity they needed to make it to the Senate.

It is easy enough to say that last week's elections were a proxy war. But the returns say otherwise.



Comelec should act faster on disqualification cases

(Continued from yesterday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE IRONIC thing in the disqualification of Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman is that there were originally three candidates for the position, two of whom were disqualified as nuisance candidates, leaving Roman unopposed and as good as elected. His vice gubernatorial candidate was also unopposed. Now Roman himself is the subject of a disqualification case.

The complainant in the disqualification case filed on May 12, 2001, two days before the election, a petition to suspend the proclamation of Roman pending the resolution of the disqualification case. On May 15, two days after the election, Rep. Enrique Garcia, as co-chairman of LDP in Region III, filed another motion to suspend proclamation and objected to the inclusion in the canvass of election returns of the Municipal Board of Canvassers for the position of governor on the ground that "the same is incomplete and appear to be falsified."

But after Garcia's lawyer had left, Provincial Election Supervisor Orlando O. Torres, after canvassing only 10,000 votes from the municipality of Morong (out of 200,000 votes for the whole province), decided to proclaim Roman.

Yesterday, petitioner-intervenor Roger P. Galang filed a motion with the Comelec en banc to annul the proclamation and suspend the effects of the proclamation.

The motion is based on Section 5, Rule 25 of the 1993 Comelec Rules of Procedure which states:

"Sec. 5. Effect of Petition if Unresolved Before Completion of Canvass—If the petition, for reasons beyond the control of the Commission, cannot be decided before the completion of the canvass, the votes cast for the respondent may be included in the counting and in the canvassing: however, if the evidence of guilt is strong, his proclamation shall be suspended notwithstanding the fact that he received the winning number of votes in such election."

The motion was also based on Sec. 6, RA 6646 which provides that:

"Sec. 6. Effect of Disqualification Case—Any candidate who has been declared by final judgment to be disqualified shall not be voted for, and the votes cast for him shall not be counted. If for any reason a candidate is not declared by final judgment before an election to be disqualified and he is voted for and receives the winning number of votes in such election, the Court or Commission shall continue with the trial and hearing of the action, inquiry, or protest and, upon motion of the complainant or any intervenor may, during the pendency thereof, order the suspension of the proclamation of such candidate whenever the evidence of his guilt is strong."

The evidence of Roman's guilt and disqualification is not only very strong, said Galang's motion, "but is already a settled and resolved issue considering that this Commission had previously ruled in SPA No. 98-198, Onofre Crus vs. Roman, as reiterated in Virgilio Bautista and Danilo Magdalera vs. Roman, and affirmed by the Commission en banc on Sept. 3, 1998 that Roman has already served three consecutive terms as governor of Bataan," and therefore disqualified from running for a fourth term.

Clearly, said Galang, Roman's proclamation is null and void *ab initio* (from the very beginning) and should be so declared.

Moreover, the provincial board of canvassers violated legal procedures to manipulate the canvassing and railroad the proclamation of Roman, he said.

What happens if Roman is eventually disqualified? If the proclamation is declared void, a special election for governor of Bataan will have to be held. If it is not, the vice governor succeeds to the position of governor.

Obviously, this is the reason in the hasty proclamation of the two. But like Roman, the vice governor also had no rival candidate and was proclaimed automatically. The electorate of Bataan, therefore, did not vote for him. Making him governor will deprive the people of Bataan the right to choose their chief executive in a free election.

* * *

In another ironic twist, the same Division 2 of the Comelec, which dismissed the first disqualification case against Roman (now on appeal with the Comelec *en banc*) made a contradictory decision in the case of Tagaytay Mayor Francis Tolentino although the cases are similar.

Tolentino served the unexpired term of 11 months of his predecessor after he won an election protest. He then ran for reelection and won in the 1995 and 1998. He ran for a fourth term in last the May 14 elections. His chief rival, provincial board member Miriam Mendoza filed a disqualification case.

The Comelec, Division 2, ruled that Tolentino is disqualified. But that decision had not become final and executory by election day, and so Tolentino was voted for, his votes counted, and he is apparently ahead in the counting.

What happens now? Mendoza can also file a petition to suspend Tolentino's proclamation—if he eventually gets the winning number of votes. And the Comelec en banc should resolve quickly both the Tolentino and Roman disqualification cases. The Comelec encourages dirty tricks in elections by acting so slowly. The principal goal of cheats is to be proclaimed immediately so that they can assume the position and then delay the proceedings against them. By the time the case is decided by the Comelec or the courts, only a fraction of the term is left to the eventual winner.

This is a grave injustice not only to the cheated candidate but to the people who elected him. By moving slowly like a snail, the Comelec is abetting and encouraging poll cheating. It is sending the message that cheating pays.

Movie in their minds

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHEN you watch a movie like "Superman," you begin by accepting the premise that the hero of the movie can fly and is impervious to bullets. Once you do that, you are able to understand and appreciate the story. Or more to the point, since you paid good money for it, you are able to enjoy the movie. You are able to identify with the hero, loathe the villains and thrill to a satisfying ending, which is normally a happy one.

That is called "suspending disbelief." All of us do that when we watch movies, even of a very realistic kind. We assume certain things as given, from which a whole logic unfolds. Our ability to believe or disbelieve what happens in the movie comes from those givens. We would disbelieve it if at some point Superman tries to dispatch a villain by turning invisible. That is not part of the givens, that would make it implausible. But we would believe it if Superman flies in time to stop a rocket from hitting an airplane. No one says a movie like "Superman" sucks because its idea that a human being can fly is ridiculous. No one says watching a movie like "Superman" is a waste of time because its notion that a human being can be indestructible is insane.

I thought of this after someone wrote me a letter asking what I meant by taking the poor seriously and how exactly we may go about "educating the masses." Well, to take the poor seriously is to take the way they see things seriously, and to educate the masses is to understand where they're coming from. The way I see it, our situation is not unlike telling the poor not to watch the movie in their minds because its premise is ridiculous and insane. We keep doing that and we'll never be able to fathom the reason why they flocked to "Edsa III" and why they voted for some of Erap's chosen in these elections.

The premise of that movie in their mind is that Erap is one of them, or represents them. Outside looking in, or from perspective of reality as against the movies, that premise truly looks like the most ridiculous or insane thing on earth. How anyone who extorts money from *jueteng* lords, uses a fictitious name to stash loot in a bank, and lives a lifestyle that rivals Imelda's in profligacy, can possibly be thought of as poor, or one of the poor, is utterly inexplicable. I myself have tried to explain this as the product quite literally of Erap's movies, which have depicted him as the mythical toughie, Asiong Salonga, who has fists of stone but a heart of gold.

Why has that myth persisted even though Erap hasn't made a movie in ages? (Someone asked me that very thoughtful question in another letter.) Because he has lived out the persona even after he stopped making movies. For all practical purposes, Erap is Asiong Salonga in life—or so he has made himself out to be. I do not think it is an accident that that was the name Chavit Singson et al. used in their ledgers to refer to him. A great deal of it was not entirely simulated or acted: Erap truly was uncomfortable talking with businessmen and diplomats and preferred drinking with buddies and making token visits to huts and hovels.

An Indian friend recently told me that was the case too with some of their movie stars who had become successful politicians. Many had not made a movie in years, but had carried out their movie roles in life, partly through acting and partly in earnest. They did feel more comfortable in the company of the poor than of the rich, of the masses than of the elite. They did enjoy eating with their bare hands in a poor man's hovel than with knives and forks in a rich man's banquet. The poor can tell whether the person doing this is sincere or just putting on a show. When my friend said this, the image of Erap breaking bread with a farmer and Ms Macapagal doing the same thing with soldiers flashed to mind.

You suspend disbelief for a while, you grant the seemingly un-grantable, which is that Erap is Asiong Salonga in life as in the movies, and an entire story line, with its own logic, unfolds. A story of rich against poor unfolds, especially given that the characters embodying the rich (who are "persecuting" Erap, and by extension the poor) consist of Corazon Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who are almost the stereotypical rich of *telenovelas*. A story of the poor being oppressed again and again unfolds, especially as all the institutions of society—the Church, the media and government—seem to be belittling or laughing at them for showing their support for "one of their own."

Now lest I be misunderstood here—and it is not just the poor whose powers of comprehension are often suspect—let me hasten to add that I am **not** saying that we should resign ourselves to this version of reality. What I am saying is that we should first see that the poor has this version of reality before we can even think to disabuse them of it. To simply dismiss their actions as being based on the ridiculous premise that Erap is one of them or represents them is to tell someone not to watch "Superman" because it is based on the ridiculous idea that someone can fly.

Only one more thing needs to be explained, which is why the poor live myth, breathe myth, and even die myth. Most of us do have a clear line of demarcation between movies and real life. The reason we do not mind sitting in a theater and believing that a man can fly and do other impossible things is that we know we are watching a movie. We gladly suspend disbelief, knowing that after two hours in the dark, we will go back to the light and live according to its terms. Those terms do not include people who fly and do impossible things. The poor do not always have such clear lines of demarcation. Myth and reality, movies and real life, flow into each other like Salvador Dali's liquid watches.

This I can only attribute to the quality of their lives. It's not just the rich that are different from you and me, as F. Scott Fitzgerald says, it's the poor too. Being poor in this country is not unlike being black in America. "You do **not** know how I feel; you have no idea how I feel:" That is what the black folk of America tell their white brethren; that is what the poor folk of this country may tell their richer brethren. You live lives of such monstrous desperation, why shouldn't you want to escape too? Why shouldn't you want to live in a world of illusion too? In the haze of rugby, in the dark of the movie house, in the embrace of a false prophet?

Art, said Picasso once, is the lie by which we know the truth. Taking the poor seriously is not unlike understanding art. First, we see the lie, **then** we espy the truth.

Pimentel and Revilla in 'GMA column' in Senate

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I USED to count Sen. Ramon Revilla in the pro-Erap column, especially since he voted to keep that second envelope closed at the impeachment trial. But that might have changed now that he has accused the Erap camp of flooding Cavite with many millions of pesos to defeat his son, Gov. Bong Revilla, in his reelection bid against Rep. Ayong Maliksi.

This could also be true of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel whom I also on occasion would count with the pro-Erap senators in the past. Those of us who personally followed the impeachment trial daily found it difficult to place the Senate Chief's leanings then. But with the defeat of his bar-topnotcher son Koko by Erap loyalist Gov. Vicente Emano amid protests of massive vote-buying (Erap money?) and fraud, Pimentel may have been driven ineluctably out of the Erap camp for good.

In fact the defeat of young Pimentel may be a blessing in disguise as the Senate Chief has taken up anew his old crusade against *dagdag-bawas*, which he claims has benefited the opposition. If Nene could pursue this crusade to the finish he would do his country singular service.

* * *

At last Saturday's GMA Para sa Kawal Cup at the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Cavite, jointly sponsored by the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation and the DND/AFP for the benefit of widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action, our media colleague Chit Pedrosa, who tagged along with her participant-husband Bert, encountered PAF Chief Maj. Gen. Benjie Defensor for the first time at lunch; she instantly decided she liked him better than his irascible senator-sister. I myself have liked Benjie since his and my husband's DND days and in fact I find it difficult to believe he and Miriam are related. Last Saturday Chit queried General Defensor if he'd pull a coup attempt vs. President Macapagal and with a broad smile he quipped, "I'll have to ask my wife first." His pretty wife, Meg, who's an avid golfer, laughed. That's what Miriam sorely lacks: Benjie's sense of humor.

At the tournament we girls adjudged Defense Chief Angelo Reyes' golf outfit, a plaid brown shirt and matching pants with buntal hat, the snazziest among the golfers. To this General Reyes quipped that one rule of thumb among golfers is that if you can't play good golf, at least you should look good.

* * *

The ASK tournament was a big success because of the cooperation of so many people, beginning with President Macapagal and former President Ramos. The Riviera Golf & Country Club, for instance, pulled all the stops and provided free green fees, golf cart rental (the rental alone would have cost P700 per player) and buffet lunch. Of course Riviera got enormous publicity in return, especially that beautiful Inquirer front-page photo of GMA teeing off, as FVR, ASK chair Ed Espiritu, General Reyes and Chief of Staff General Diomedio Villanueva cheered her. Thanks, editor in chief Letty.

Philippine Air Lines donated two round-trip tickets to the US West Coast, which became our major raffle prize (these were won by Shell Philippines Exploration, the biggest donor). Toyota Philippines donated a brand-new beautiful Toyota Camry to the hole-in-one golfer but unfortunately no one qualified and ASK's tournament committee chair, lawyer Ely Alampay Jr., sadly had to return the keys to Toyota boss Gen. Angel Kanapi (ret.). Thanks so much to you all. Rest assured it was for a good cause.

* * *

I had earlier noted here that so many public school classrooms still display the photo of deposed President Estrada four months after he was booted out, and many readers affirmed this. Elvie Liwanag of Education Secretary Raul Roco's office wrote to say that DECS Memorandum 152 dated May 07, 2001, signed by Undersecretary Ramon Bacani already directed all DECS offices and public schools to display the photos of GMA and Roco, inasmuch as it has been noted that photos of the former president and education secretary are still on display. But obviously this still has to be enforced.

* * *

A group of media people, namely, Jarius Bondoc and Chit Pedrosa of Star, Alex Magno of Standard, Tony Lopez of AsiaWeek and myself, together with Press Undersecretary Cerge Remonde, held a rambling two-hour dialog with former President Ramos over PTV-4 last Friday afternoon, for showing that evening. FVR had just come back from a 17-day trip to the US and Germany which, he stressed, cost the government not one cent, during which he met with various economic and business leaders. The media people wanted to discuss with him the implications of the recent elections on the economy and the stability of the country. A number of friends who saw the program found it quite enlightening, and Ramos' optimism refreshing in the light of so many problems. In fact there is a request to USEC Remonde to show it again, for the benefit of those who may have missed it; he has promised to look into this.

* * *

In that show Ramos expressed grave concern that "narco money" appeared to have been used to some extent in the elections and he advocated a stricter enforcement of election laws, especially on illegal sources of funding. I noted that in the 1998 elections it was widely believed that *jueteng* money contributed to the campaign kitty of candidate Joseph Estrada, but this time "narco-politics" appears to be more prominent, though the *jueteng* network apparently was also utilized.

But while Ramos was concerned about "narco-politics" he remained optimistic about the political and economic situation and credited Ms Macapagal with deftness in handling the recent political crises. He said that foreign leaders he talked to were upbeat about GMA. Queried about legislative prospects for GMA in an 8-4-1 or even 7-6 scenario in the Senate, he pointed out that this shouldn't be a problem, as realignments always take place eventually. He noted that when he started out as a minority president he only had two senators with him, but thanks in part to the coalition genius of Speaker Jose de Venecia in the House, his administration got so many crucial bills passed.

* * *

Some of us voiced the concern of citizens about how President Macapagal's administration would survive the crisis, but FVR pointed out that President Cory Aquino had perhaps a rougher time, having had to contend with "nine coup attempts, mind you, not just seven" (he counted the Alexander Noble and Ruben Canoy movements with the Honasan coups), the serious power outages, a bankrupt economy, etc. Tony Lopez wasn't convinced that Aquino had a rougher time; neither am I. FVR was also queried about prospects of foreign investors coming in, inasmuch as there is a perception of instability owing to the frauds that marred the election in many places. Ramos said the signal he picked up abroad was that the foreign investors are upbeat over the Macapagal administration, and he cited three Bavaria-based giant multinational firms interested to expand activities here: ABB-Germany, which is already involved in the NAIA III terminal; Siemens, which provided the navigational equipment for that terminal, and the Hypo Vereinsbank.

(To be continued)

Israeli press hit Sharon government for using F-16s

NEWS ANALYSIS

JERUSALEM—Israel's press savaged Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Sunday for bombing Palestinian cities with fighter jets over the weekend, calling it a gut reaction which will do more harm than good.

"A government that promised to bring calm and personal security finds itself, three months later, swept up in a wave of escalation," wrote Alex Fishman in an analysis in the top-selling Yediot Aharonot.

Newspapers across the political spectrum pronounced the air strikes which killed 12 Palestinians in the West Bank an unmitigated public relations disaster internationally and at home.

The papers charged Sharon with fulfilling Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat wishes, by ordering the strikes in response to the suicide bomb blast Friday by a member of the militant Islamic Palestinian Hamas group, which killed five Israelis and wounded another 100 in the northern coastal city of Netanya.

"Within eight months, the intifada has gone from the M-16 to the F-16," wrote Hemi Shalev in the popular Maariv daily, referring to assault rifles and warplanes respectively.

"Militarily speaking, the F-16s achieved rather negligible results, but in terms of diplomacy and PR, Israel bombed itself in the knee."

The commentaries skewered Israel's military, Sharon and Arafat and voiced overwhelming despair and helplessness about fears of a coming war.

"The 'stupid' bombs did not reassure residents of Israel and did not increase our feeling of security. They intensified the nervousness and the feeling that we are deteriorating toward war," wrote Sever Plotzker, also in Yediot Aharonot.

"We are getting closer to a point of no return, after which only tactical considerations will set the exact date of the outbreak of combat."

Even the Jerusalem Post, Israel's leading right-leaning newspaper, blasted the raid as a public relations win for the Palestinians.

In an editorial, titled the "The Wrong Mission," the paper warned "the use of such hi-tech weaponry can cause serious damage to Israel on the second front that the country is fighting: the battle for world public opinion."

Yediot Aharonot branded Friday's air raids strategically futile and an incitement to the Palestinians after months of violence.

"There should be no mistake: more bombing of this type will not make the Palestinians raise a white flag," wrote columnist Roni Shaked.

"After eight months of fighting they say they have nothing to lose and have only one option: to keep fighting. That is, more terror, more violence, more dead—on both sides."

A former commander in chief of the Israeli air force, Major General Avihu Bin Nun, slammed in Maariv the decision to send out the fighter planes Friday. "We must know that Yasser Arafat wants us to respond with planes," Bin Nun wrote.

"He would even prefer that we attack with planes on several fronts, because then maybe some bomb would not hit the target directly, but instead hit a school or some other civilian locale, so he can show the casualties to the world."

Maariv also blamed the raid for Saturday's call by Arab foreign ministers in Cairo for the severing of all political contacts with Israel.

"On the eve of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab League in Cairo, the Air Force operation severely damaged Israel's relations with the Arab world, particularly Jordan and Egypt, and increased the tension in the entire region," Maariv columnist Shalev wrote.

The left-leaning Haaretz daily cautioned Israel not to expect any immediate intervention from the United States under President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell despite the weekend's carnage.

"Is it the hour of truth for...George Bush?" columnist Aluf Ben wrote, comparing Bush to former US president and Middle East peace advocate Bill Clinton. "All signs point to a tendency by Bush and Powell not to follow in their predecessor's footsteps, for the time being."

AFP

Short introduction to the pre-Hispanic world

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE PHILIPPINES is located on the outside limits, geographically as well as historically of the Asian subcontinent and her historical evolution is immersed in the changes and transformations that affected this area. Our Malay element absorbed the language and culture of the Hindus, Chinese and Moslems and this high breed element is characteristic of society. It enriched the people socially and culturally giving them variety and complexity.

In coastal areas and lowlands, the pre-Hispanic stage was maintained until the 16th century. In some remote interiors it survived until recently with little change. In general an environment common to the entire zone influenced the culture. These were communities that based their subsistence on the cultivation of rice both in the plains and in the mountains, in the cultivation of palms and fruits and in fishing and hunting. These societies developed under a chief or "*principales*" with an animistic religion based on a belief in a supreme god and a multitude of spirits in which ancestor worship played a significant role.

Then as now commerce played a significant role in the historic development of the country's economics, politics and religion. The Hindu, Chinese and Islamic cultures arrived via the commercial routes and are apparent in the religion, customs, language and even in social strata.

On the other hand the great geographic fragmentation is one of the characteristics of major importance in the life of the early Filipino. The numerous islands that form the archipelago, the considerable distance that exist between some of them and the mountains that divide the interiors result in zones divided from each other by either the mountains or the sea covered then by tropical vegetation. This physical environment gave rise to the Filipino's maritime culture.

Due to the geographic formation and the political decentralization there existed a variety of languages. Although all have Malay-Polynesian roots there is still a great variety (Dr. Jesus Peralta researched over 300!) because of the isolation of these communities and the lack of contact between them.

As a matter of necessity and later policy, Spanish missionaries initiated the first studies of these languages for evangelization purposes. It was hoped that the natives would be more amenable to change if introduced by someone speaking in their own language.

Perhaps because of convenience and proximity, the most rigorously studied was Tagalog. Even if there were no publications of other languages these manuscripts on grammar circulated freely in the monasteries although there is a dearth of material on Mindanao because the Spanish presence there was limited.

Some of these ancient Filipino groups used a system of writing. There was an alphabet of 17 letters, three of which were vowels and the rest consonants. "Doctrina Christiana" printed in 1593 utilized the Filipino alphabet. The languages survived the Spanish colonization but the alphabet did not and we know only of a few historical fragments.

There is disagreement on how the Philippines was populated whether it was in successive waves of migrations or in another manner. Exactly when this occurred or how is also debated. What is agreed upon is that the migrations came from the Asian continent and that first there were pygmies from Malaca and New Guinea followed by the Proto-Malays who also settled throughout Southeast Asia. The Malays were the last to arrive.

The Islamic influence that appears in the 14th century in Sulu then follows commercial routes through Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon. The newly arrived always settled in the fertile planes pushing the previous inhabitants toward the interior to areas that were mountainous and inhospitable. This expansion was interrupted by the arrival of the Spanish.

Indigenous groups are indeed numerous. From the linguistic and cultural point of view there are some 70 different groups although 90 percent of the population is divided among 8 categories. In Luzon there are 6 linguistic groups considered major, namely: Tagalog, Ilocano, Pangasinense, Bicol and Pampango. In the Visayas there are three: Cebuano, Hiligaynon and Samar-Leyte.

These groups lived beside rivers, converted to Christianity and basically still dominate the cultural, economic and political life of the country. They were the most influenced by the Spanish colonial regime. Mindanao and Sulu as well as the Aetas in remote mountain areas were much less affected.

This diversity provoked confusion in the early *Conquistadores* who had no concepts of ethnicity or the varieties of culture and religion. Thus during the 16th and 17th centuries Filipinos were classified as Moros or Indios depending on their religious beliefs even if both were basically Malays. There was also a classification between the Indios of the interiors and those of the coasts. Again this was very much influenced by religion since the natives of the interior practiced their old religion while those in the coasts were more open to outside influences and with time were converted to Catholicism or Islam.

The lack of historical sources presents a problem for any study of the pre-Hispanic Filipino. The Friar chronicles were written much later than events mentioned in some legends or oral traditions. Our best sources are still archeological or anthropological materials dependent on scientists doing field research.

Data source: Historia General de Filipinas, Madrid, 2000

Monday moments

YOUNGBLOOD

Weng

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

YOU squint in the light that messed up the darkness of your room. You sit up, eyes still partly closed as you glance at your logbook and manual left open on your bed and your calculator lying on the floor. You didn't sleep much last night, if only you could just lie down and sleep all day without the fear of missing the lab practical this afternoon. But you have to get up because it's a routine and it's Monday morning. You don't want to be late for Philosophy because one more "late-ness" means one more absence. And one more absence means you're already FA. You get a towel as you hurry drowsily down the stairs to take a bath. The ritual would usually take you 45 minutes, 30 minutes at least to get your dad pissed off. Well, you wouldn't know it until he knocks at your door telling you to get out when you're at the middle of shampooing your hair. Anyway, it would only take you about 3 minutes to dress up, one minute to fix your things and a couple minutes more to eat your breakfast and you're off.

You arrive in school the usual time, if not late, too early in the morning, and since the guards won't let you in unless it's 6:30, you have to stay somewhere else. In your case you'd rather stay in the covered walk and watch people as they, too, go on with their ways. Sometimes you'd wait for that cute guy from pay High or that so-called commercial model airhead from the College of Commerce to pass by. It gives you much pleasure to see them every morning though in reality they don't actually know you exist. A few minutes later you'll hear that familiar sound and without looking you'll realized that it's your so-called classmate (if it's all he means to you), and his conceited red set-up car disquieting the peaceful street. You pretend not to see him by doing something else or looking somewhere else but your peripheral vision tells you that he too, didn't get enough sleep last night. And you watch him, the careless indifferent way he drives, that sluggish look and sleepy eyes...and oh that car you have always longed to ride with him. That same guy who has always been the object of your affection, who makes you look forward to the afternoons when you're supposed to go home together (though that idea now seemed unthinkable), that same guy you have loved inside ever since you entered college, from the minute you saw him at the covered walk until this moment. But all those longings for him would suddenly flash into plain anger when you remember again the way he made you feel like a princess sometime ago then ditched you just because you thought so and he said he didn't want you anymore. Then you realize it's still him and his so called girl. And you? You're just an electron that circled around his orbit once but took off because of some electron that was, in fact far more electronegative and could attract him better than you. Anyway, you saw classmate Jeff walking toward you and you smile, thank God you're not alone this morning. You ask him if he has the homework in math and he gladly lets you copy it number for number. Then you go up, the first one inside the classroom as you wait far the others to arrive. Not long after, he too enters the classroom and you pretend not to see or least bit notice him even though in reality you've been anticipating his coming. Then she arrives, and those two are enough to make your day turn from bad to worse, seeing them in front of you.

Philosophy class makes you want to continue your interrupted sleep. Is it you or does this subject finally begin to irritate you? Maybe you're simply not a logical thinker and you find Philosophy either boring or too hard. Math time came and the result of your first quiz in the finals was given. You don't want to look at your paper but you have to. Expectedly, the result says: 14 out of 40. Great. Now you're in tune with numbers more than anything else. This clearly states the truth that math and you can never go together. Fine there's still that Physics which always surprises you with unsurprising quizzes. In a way, you're glad you're coping (or so you thought).

At 12 you hurry upstairs to prepare for the scheduled practical exam dealing with titration whatever with this reagent so and so (Titration is a kind of chemical ward that you encounter almost every day of your life, it might as well be part of your personal dictionary). You don't have time to eat although you manage a bag of chips and a bottle of water. It's all you need to get your mind going the next three hours.

At 1:15, the practical exam would start First batch in, second batch out. Everybody would cram as the instructor would count from one to 10, and you're out of the lab. Outside, you wait and read and wait, not to mention those few stolen glances, hidden glimpses and the like. Of course it's part of the wait. Inside, he's just a few feet away from you titrating and you don't know whether to focus on him or on the flasks and reagent bottles and burettes lined in front of you that before you knew it you have already overstepped titration and don't know where to start computing again. When everyone has passed their logbooks and technical reports you'd rush to the sink and wash the glasswares because Gem is waiting for you outside. A few hours ago she texted you and said that you'd go home together. She actually hates people who move slowly so you really got to bear with her or else she'll leave you.

As you crossed the street to Buenavides his car stopped in front of you. One look and you continue your walk as if he didn't exist and he went on driving as if he didn't know you. As if you didn't go home together some time ago. As if nothing really significant happened between the two of you. As if you never fell for him. As if he didn't matter to you. As if it's easy to catch an FX in España. If you live in Cubao it's okay. But Fairview? An hour or two will do. As you cross España, you realize it's only Monday and you still have a long week to go. You have four whole days left with the inescapeable fact that you'll be seeing him, her, the two of them together and, of course, the pain that comes with it, at the same time studying, struggling to survive as you find your way home alone (except now), whether it's raining or not, whether it's seven in the evening or three in the afternoon. Sometimes though, you miss him. You do miss him like crazy if only he knew. You don't know why, you don't know how. All you could figure out is that you have fallen big time for this egotistical, bigheaded yet sweet and gentle guy that charmed you completely and made you totally insane no questions asked. Perhaps he's the only guy who has successfully melted your cold façade before you even knew it. Or maybe it's in the way his eyes stirred the very depths of your being, but you alone felt it. Whatever it is, you know he has won you over as behind that indifference, under the coldness, between blank faces and meaningless looks, you're in love (if that's what you think it is) and loving him perfectly in silence. Oh what a day! As you board the FX you congratulate yourself...at least you made it through with or without him. That means you'll make it from end to end. Meanwhile you beam as you ponder: what kind of moments will Tuesday bring?

Weng, 18, is a student of the University of Sto. Tomas.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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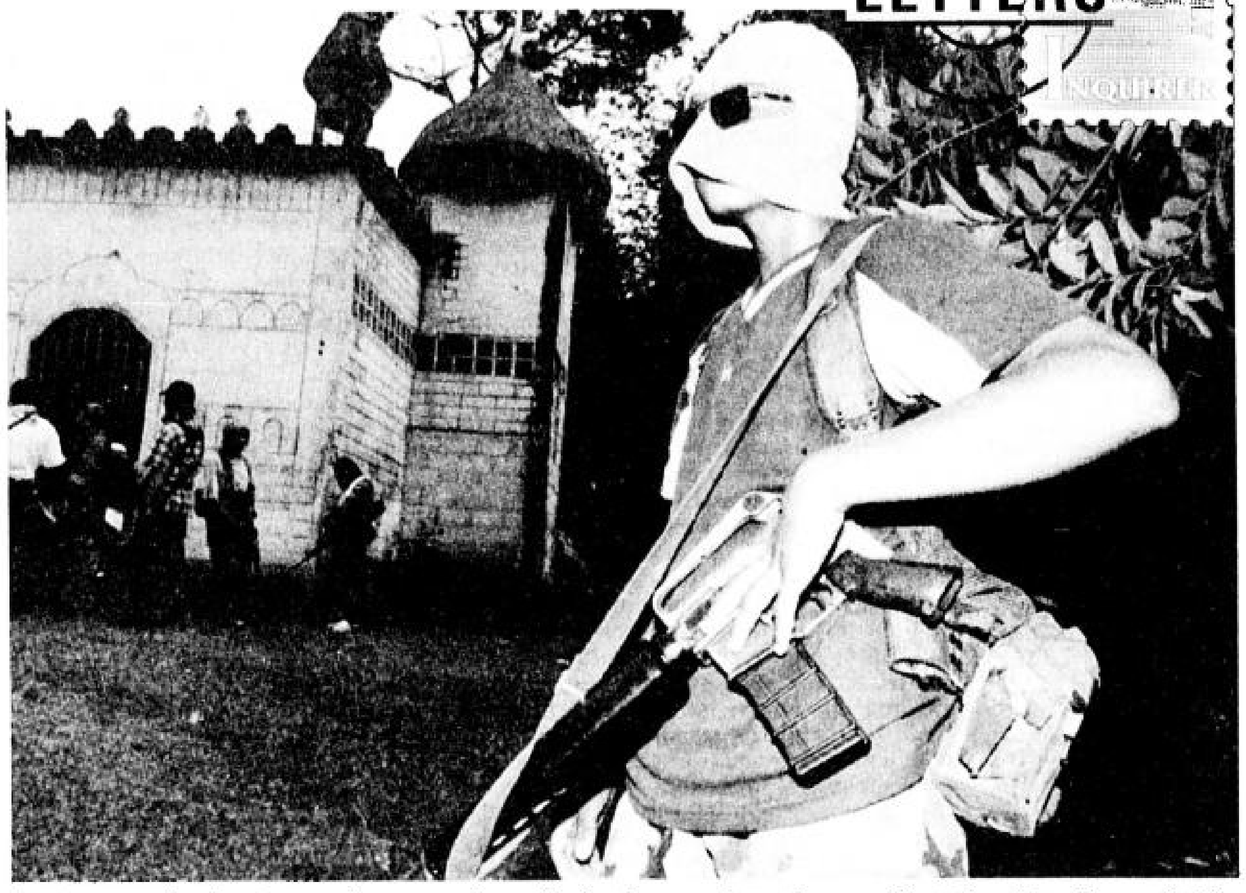
LETTERS

No quarters for the Abu Sayyaf



THE ABU SAYYAF is again getting media attention. This group of Muslim bandits and terrorists pretend to be fighting for the cause of Muslims, capitalizing on Islam to attain a separate state. But actually they are only a group of criminally bent Tausugs, whose only means of survival is to kidnap, extort and kill innocent civilians.

The majority of Muslims in the four provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao condemn the atrocities committed by the Abu Sayyaf. What the group has been doing are un-Islamic.

It is high time for the government to go after this group. Its members must not be granted amnesty or be allowed to surrender. An all-out war without let-up should be done by the military. Allowing these bandits to go on with their barbaric criminal activities will endanger the lives of many people.

This time the government should not permit the Abu Sayyaf any time to regroup. The military must go after the group and not allow them to escape. The Moro National Islamic Liberation Front-Philippine Army Integrated Forces must also be utilized to fight the Abu Sayyaf since the integrees are now through undergoing military training, their effectiveness in jungle warfare should be tested.

For as long as the Abu Sayyaf is not crushed, it will remain a national security threat because of its connection with foreign terrorists who are allegedly planning to assassinate local and foreign dignitaries in the country.

As a Muslim, I am totally against the Abu Sayyaf. The group is an embarrassment to the Muslims of this country.—**TUAN MUSTAPHA KIMAR SALASA, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**

Respect each other's point of view

I WRITE this letter in response to that shabby treatment the Iglesia ni Cristo got from a certain Samuel J. Yap. I would not have reacted to such a stinging description of our church leaders, i.e., leading its members to spiritual and political slavery, had he not dealt directly with a core doctrine, that is, our being steadfastly united with the intentions and spirit of our church administrator.

Yap and Fr. Jerry Orbos, I suggest should study more intensely the history of the church they both belong to and try at least to explain the debauchery and moral decadence that have since been the hallmarks of many of its leaders. After all, the INC would not have grown, in only a matter of decades without the multitudes of ex-Catholic members who saw the light in the words of God, which the INC ministers so earnestly expound.

And to Yap, this I have to say: A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Better seek greater understanding so that you may one day appreciate the real meaning of "giving unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's." Now as regards the separation of Church and State, you need not look elsewhere. Just focus your study on Philippine history for it is replete with examples from the time of Jose Rizal down to our time. But, in jest, may I suggest that you check first if there is speck in your eye for you to clearly see through it.

It might be healthy if we ordinary and simple members of these two churches sit down and have an honest and in-depth discussion of the doctrines we separately espouse, instead of issuing scathing opinions that further stoke ill will among us. Doing so would give us a better perspective of the faith we separately have, and thus, I hope will enable us to respect each other's religious points of view.—**AGUSTIN T. TALAVERA JR., 111 Mahogany corner Duhat Road, Pilar Village, Almanza, Las Piñas City**

Why begrudge them the bath?

I WAS on my way home from a taekwondo promotion when I came across the last campaign blast of the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates in Plaza Miranda last May 12, 2001. I got the chance of hearing former first lady Loi Estrada, blabbering about what happened to the detained supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada upon the visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She was complaining how the prisoners were asked to take a bath before the President faced them. She thinks that with such a move, the President and the police officers were belittling his husband's supporters.

How could that be? If I were asked to take a bath before facing the President of this country, I would gladly comply. Maybe I would even take a bath twice, use a deodorant and groom my hair with gel, if necessary. The point is that all of us, rich or poor, would certainly strive to look presentable before the highest public official of this country, even if it would just be simply washing our face or brushing our teeth. And besides, the former first lady is a physician. I guess she has overlooked the fact that simple acts of cleanliness such as washing of hands, taking a bath or changing clothes every day is tantamount to preventing disease from spreading.

I laughed to hear her say those things. Who knows, some of those visited might even have been thankful for the visit which made a bath possible, if not necessary.—**RONALD M. ANGELES, M.D., 818-4 Centro St., Sampaloc, Manila**

PSHS clarifications

THIS is to clarify very briefly some points raised in the column of Rina Jimenez-David last May 11 regarding the non-renewal of the appointment of Philippine Science High School acting director Luzita Alcid.

The PSHS Board of Trustees designated Alcid as acting director of the PSHS Diliman Campus (in a temporary capacity) for one year from Nov 14, 1999 to Nov 15, 2000 and extended this appointment to March 30, 2001 to coincide with the end of the school year. The board created a committee to conduct the evaluation of Alcid, which included, among others, three faculty/staff representatives, two of whom belong to the PSHS Employees Union. Based on the results of the evaluation, the board voted unanimously not to renew her appointment. As of March 31, 2001 Alcid returned to her faculty position at the PSHS in Diliman. On April 2, 2001 Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro designated Dr. Ramon R. Miranda, presently executive director of the PSHS System, as officer in charge of the Diliman campus. The PSHS Diliman campus is managed collegially by the executive council composed of the OIC, four faculty members and one administrative staff member. A search is underway for the next PSHS Diliman director.

The union alleges that there was a defect in the evaluation instrument as well as the conduct of the evaluation itself. However, the union members were unable to effectively raise and assail this, either at the evaluation committee level, with the PSHS Board of Trustees or with Science Secretary Alabastro. They now assail the decision before the media.—**DR. RAMON R. MIRANDA, executive director, Philippine Science High School System, Agham Road, Quezon City**

Palace fast lane for investments and jobs?

REGARDLESS of the results of the elections on the composition of the next Congress, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could draw on a good reserve of executive power to achieve remarkable progress in the 1,000 days leading to the 2004 elections. Ms Macapagal could also rely on information and communication technology to hasten wealth creation and reduce unemployment.

When government agencies get interconnected in an ICT network, data and information would be transmitted at a dramatically faster speed never before seen under any past administration. The country would be ushered into the "new economy" and, quoting former US President Clinton, "move more people out of poverty more quickly than at any time in all human history."

The first step is to streamline procedure in order to attract private investors in government ICT projects and unleash the jobs they will create with their ripple effects. For instance, BOT projects don't only create jobs but also provide non-wage benefits to low-income families. When more workers are employed, they raise demand for goods and services that jump-starts business expansions to create more new jobs.

Better productivity spurs competition that lowers prices. Equally important, increasing the speed at which projects are approved and freed from bureaucratic inertia improves business confidence that spurs investments that create wealth.

Investors don't expect their projects will always be approved. All they want to know is where they stand. If a proposal is not approved, they would use the resources for another project. Thus, to make foreign investors wait a long time for the government's decision is the fastest way to drive them and their investments to another country. Sad to say, most bureaucrats don't realize this.

The President knows that Philippine economic progress depends on the success of agrarian reform. This is hastened by creating non-farm jobs to reduce the population depending on the farm for livelihood When decisions are made faster, economic activities are likewise accelerated and rural productivity rises with favorable impact on the urban population as well.

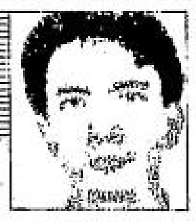
Economic development would be hastened by realigning the antiquated and unreliable communication channel from Cabinet departments and other agencies to the Office of the President. The President needs staff support to provide alternative options from Cabinet inputs and prevent investment and job creation from getting mixed up with conflicting issues. For instance the President decided to shelve many foreign-assisted projects (FAPs) for lack of counterpart funds. Good staff support would have looked at the problem from a different viewpoint and see that some FAPs could be implemented under the BOT law with neither foreign aid nor counterpart funds.

The President should consider opening up a fastlane to Malacañang for private sector proposals on investment and job creation. The fastlane should be delineated from governmental functions to get bureaucratic hands off these proposals.

An effective solution is for implementing agencies to immediately furnish the Office of the President a summarized evaluation of each project proposal received by them. The President's staff would then evaluate if a project fits the criteria set for fast-track implementation. The agency concerned would then be informed if it's a priority project and evaluation should be finished without delay. The result is a fast interface of investments and job creation options between the Office of the President and the agency concerned to improve investors' confidence, promote government-private sector partnerships and enhance the anti-poverty program.—**FRANK WENCESLAO, 375 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City**

Political limbo

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, Filipinos were bombarded with dire predictions about what would happen if the People's Power Coalition (PPC) didn't make a clean sweep in the Senate: from a legislative impasse to the impeachment of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

It's clear now the PPC won't have a 13-0 slate. But it's not the end of the world with what looks like an 8-5 outcome, or in a worst-case scenario, a 7-6 slate. Sure there will be some problems but the most serious threats really come from whoever of the "Gang of Four" makes it into the Senate and right now it looks like only Gringo Honasan and Panfilo Lacson have made it, with a possible third slot for either Juan Ponce Enrile or Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Let's look at the other "threats" from the Puwersa ng Masa. Loi Estrada, who seems to have made it on a sympathy vote, has never been her own person and will not be able to act decisively in the Senate. Ed Angara is the exact opposite, an independent and fair-minded technocrat who helped to moderate the hotheads among so-called Erap loyalists last May 1. I have no doubts that he received votes even from pro-Arroyo people and that he will act on principles.

My point is that the PPC/PnM divide is an artificial one. Allegiances and alliances will continue to shift during the next three years, sometimes on a matter of principle, and other times out of convenience and opportunism. (Incumbent Sen. John Osmeña has already declared he will, henceforth, be an independent senator. Hooray, yahoo and yehey.)

There's a more important issue here and this is the claim that the success of the Macapagal administration's reforms depends on the composition of the Senate. This claim reinforces a misconception, all too common in the Philippines, that you can legislate national development.

The problem, as far as I'm concerned, is that we have too many laws, legislators and lawyers. Together, they've transformed politics into a self-serving industry that often hampers reforms. We've given too much attention to the legislative wing while neglecting the executive and judicial branches. Worse, we make the executive and judicial branches dependent on the legislators' political patronage.

We are told that we need new laws to revive the economy, mainly to offer new incentives to foreign investors. But investors avoid us for many reasons, most of which you can't solve through legislation. There's graft and corruption, but we already have many laws that deal with that problem, all the way up to the death penalty for plunder.

Investors complain, too, that in this information age, the Philippines' communications system is absolutely backward. I certainly cannot understand why I get full cellphone signals even in the ruins of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, but have weak or no signals in my parents' home in San Juan not too far from Erap's. (Unless of course having Erap nearby explains the weak cell signals.) Again, we have enough laws and rules and regulations, none of which seem to be enforced, on monitoring the quality of service from telecommunications providers

The other week I was at the University of Indonesia's Depok campus, isolated as isolated can ever be. Yet I was able to read the INQUIRER online, do a column and e-mail it, all in one afternoon in the comfort of the anthropology department, using a direct cable Internet link. In contrast, the University of the Philippines' Diliman campus is only beginning to wire the faculty center for direct Internet access, a year and a half after Indonesia.

And right now, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, I have to do two columns in advance because I have to be in Baguio for a workshop over the next week. A year ago, I could go off to Bohol with my students for fieldwork, and not worry about finding a way to send my column by e-mail. Not anymore—the Internet providers have deteriorated and it's hard to get a reliable link even in highly urbanized areas. (Sometimes, I should point out, the problem is on the Manila end, such as when the INQUIRER provider shuts down.)

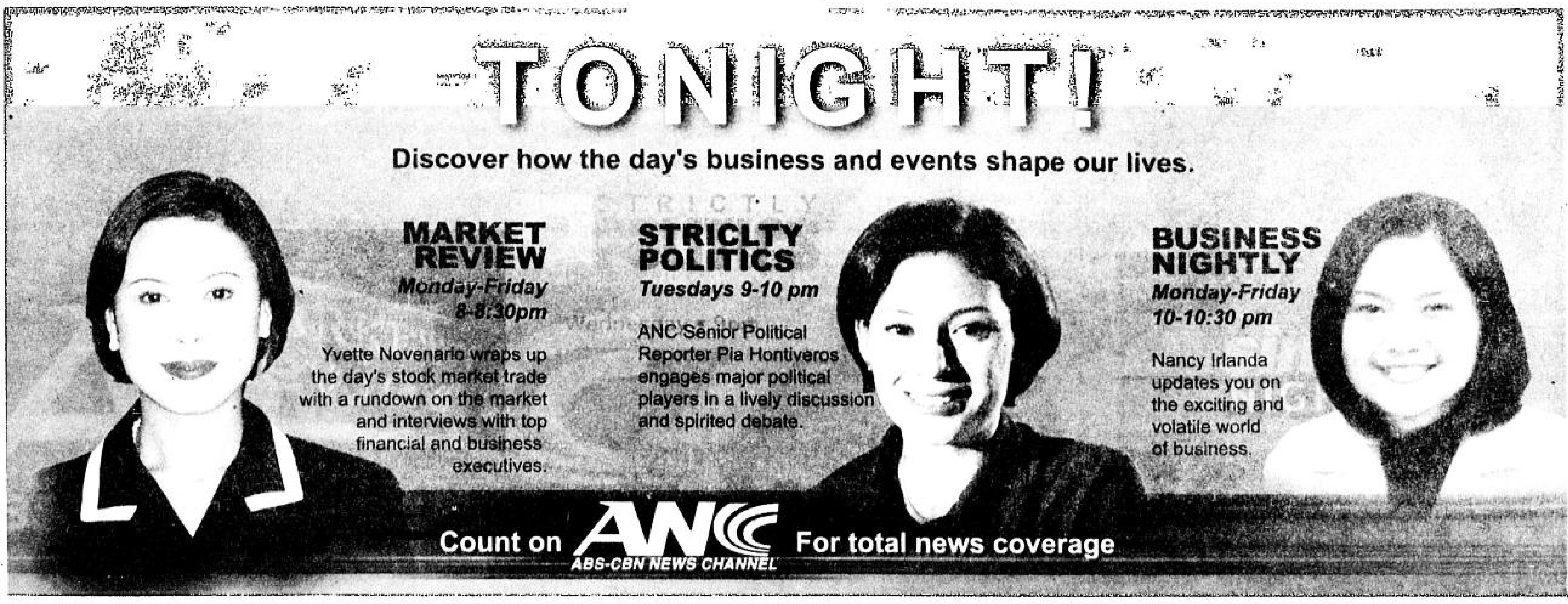
Investors complain, too, about our bad road networks, and I certainly empathize, as I prepare to leave for Baguio. We're going by land and I don't look forward to the trip, which will take some six hours (at least one hour just to get out of Manila), on roads that seem to deteriorate with time. I remember childhood trips to Baguio were leisurely, drives taking only about four hours, including stops for a meal

It's cruel deception to ask people to pin their hopes on reforms through congressional legislation. If Ms Macapagal wants political stability, she'll get it by strengthening the agencies involved in education, housing and health. It'd help, as well, to finish up the light rail transit from Legarda to Cubao and expand the mass transit system—every minute spent battling with other commuters and sitting in traffic gridlocks fuels people's resentment of "*gobyerno.*"

The Edsa III and May 1 turbulence show people's patience has worn to the limit, yet their demands are so minimal: a delivery of basic services. This just isn't happening and the situation worsens by the day. We've squandered the last eight months, projects in the public and private sector practically grinding to a halt. First it was Erap, then it's elections and maybe now we'll hear the excuse, "We have a bad Senate." I'm not surprised so many Filipinos were selling their vote—P500, the going price for a city mayor's post, feeds a poor family for a week. The vote-buying, it seems, was about the only certain fact of life Filipinos have in these days of political limbo.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org



TONIGHT!
Discover how the day's business and events shape our lives.
MARKET REVIEW
Monday-Friday 8-8:30pm
Yvette Novenario wraps up the day's stock market trade with a rundown on the market and interviews with top financial and business executives.
STRICLTY POLITICS
Tuesdays 9-10 pm
ANC Senior Political Reporter Pia Hontiveros engages major political players in a lively discussion and spirited debate.
BUSINESS NIGHTLY
Monday-Friday 10-10:30 pm
Nancy Irlanda updates you on the exciting and volatile world of business.
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Israelis attack 'bomb factory' in Gaza Strip

GAZA—Israeli helicopter gunships fired at least seven missiles at Palestinian buildings in northern Gaza early on yesterday, as fighting flared before the release of a US-led committee's report into eight months of bloodshed.

Palestinian officials said the helicopters also opened fire with machine guns, but reported no casualties other than a night watchman who was slightly hurt.

The blasts rocked Gaza City and awakened residents in the early hours of yesterday morning. Ambulance rushed to the scene with sirens wailing and police picked through the rubble.

Palestinian Public Security chief Abdel-Razek al-Majaydeh said the missiles seriously damaged a car mechanic's workshop on the outskirts of the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza. He said a marble factory and library were damaged in the barrage.

The Israeli Army said the helicopters hit a factory used to make mortar bombs, 160 of which have been fired at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and Israeli farming communities nearby in the past few months of a Palestinian revolt.

About 200,000 Israelis live in 145 settlements scattered in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, areas home to about three million Palestinians. Built on land captured in the 1967 war, the settlements are illegal under international law.

"The factory is one of a few facilities which makes mortar bombs that are shot toward Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and toward Israel," the Army said in a statement.

Committee report

Former US Senator George Mitchell's fact-finding committee was expected to demand both sides halt the violence and call for Israel to freeze Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in its report scheduled to be released soon.

At least 441 Palestinians, 13 Israeli Arabs and 87 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule erupted in September after peace negotiations deadlocked.

Israel denied Palestinian accusations that it tried to assassinate West Bank Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub, whose Ramallah house was hit by three tank shells on Sunday. He was unharmed but three bodyguards were hurt.

"The Israelis are insisting on assassinating every Palestinian. Whether he is a civilian. Whether he is a leader. Whether he is a simple person," Rajoub told reporters.

The Israeli Army said troops near Ramallah came under Palestinian fire and responded with tank shells at "the precise source of the fire, which was definitely from the courtyard of Jibril Rajoub's house."

"He is not a target. On the contrary, we want to talk to him," Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Israeli television. Rajoub has negotiated security pacts with Israeli officials in the past.

Gunbattles

At least 10 Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank fire near the West Bank towns of Ramallah, Bethlehem and Qalqiliya late on Sunday. Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen also exchanged heavy fire in the West Bank town of Hebron.

The violence reached a new peak on Friday when Israel responded to a Palestinian suicide bomb attack that killed five Israeli shoppers in the town of Netanya by deploying F-16 fighters against Palestinian security targets in the West Bank. *Reuters*

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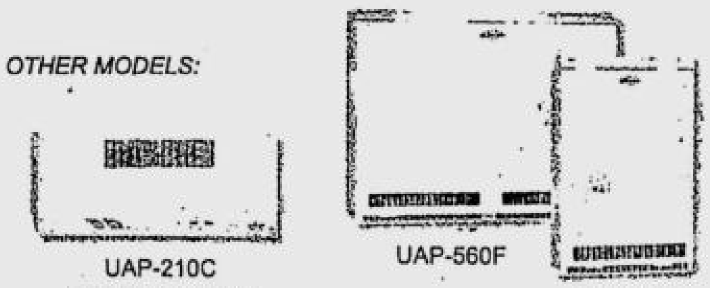

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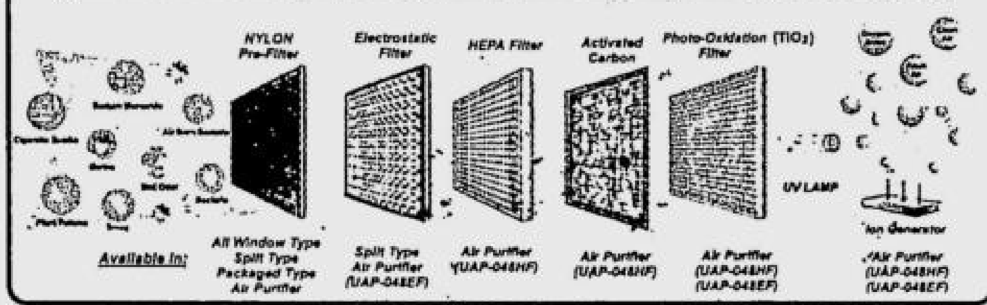
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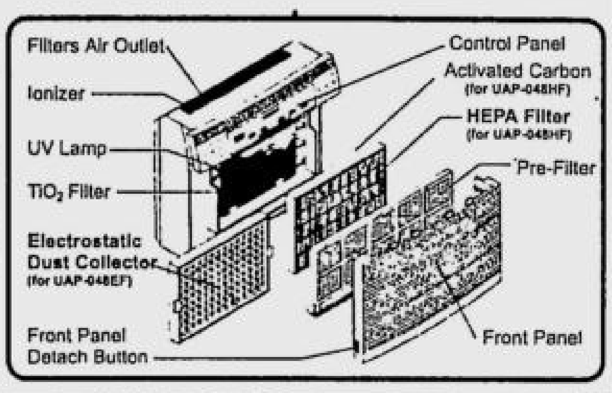
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Parliament will call for impeach hearing against Wahid–speaker

JAKARTA—Indonesia's parliamentary speaker said a majority of factions in the House will call for an impeachment hearing against President Abdurrahman Wahid when they meet next week, the official Antara news agency said yesterday.

Akbar Tandjung's comments follow an extraordinary weekend of rumors in Jakarta that Indonesia's first democratically elected leader planned to declare a state of emergency and sack powerful military chiefs to stave off the impeachment threat.

Adding to the tension, Wahid skipped a crucial Cabinet meeting held on Sunday to discuss the crisis while an irritated Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri refused to attend because the Muslim cleric had left the capital to visit central Java.

Tandjung said the House factions—which meet on May 30—had seen no effort by Wahid to respond to two separate parliament censures over his role in two financial scandals.

Speculation Wahid wanted to also disband parliament and sack the Army chief were dragging the cleric closer to a special impeachment hearing in the top legislature, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Tandjung said.

"Until today, we don't see any signs of improvement in the performance of the government, nor is there any in the attitude of Gus Dur to the second censure," Tandjung said during a visit to West Java province on Sunday, using Wahid's nickname.

Antara gave no direct quote from Tandjung to confirm the factions would call for the special session, which analysts and MPs have said was largely expected.

"Moreover, what exists are declarations by Gus Dur which have made the factions in parliament even keener to proceed and recommend a special MPR session," Tandjung said.

A spokesperson for Wahid has denied the ailing and near-blind president would take such drastic action as declaring a state of emergency, but confirmed he had discussed the idea.

Indonesia's already brittle financial markets are likely to be unsettled by the weekend events in the world's fourth most populous country, which show the protracted leadership crisis over Wahid's 19-month rule is coming to a head.

Tandjung said if any special MPR session was held, it would likely be in August. However, if the political situation became fraught, it could be speeded up, he added.

He said Wahid needed to find a solution within days that could be accepted by all political parties to avoid the special session. Analysts have said that possibility was looking more remote as Wahid had rejected any compromises put forward.

Referring to the sweeping rumors over the weekend, the Jakarta Post newspaper, in an editorial yesterday, lambasted Wahid and praised military leaders for standing up to the cleric by urging him not to take drastic measures.

"By now, the president must realize that he is fast running out of options, even including the draconian measure of imposing a state of emergency to keep himself in power," the Post said.

"He has lost credibility and the legitimacy to govern."

Political sources have said Wahid had in recent days considered declaring a state of emergency—which would enable him to dissolve the hostile parliament. *Reuters*

MOTHER AND GOSLING AP

A mother goose sits protectively beside the first of her goslings to hatch, from a 17th story balcony in a building in Oakville, Ontario, May 20.

Taiwan's Chen leaves for US, Latin America

TAIPEI—Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian yesterday left for a five-nation tour of Latin America via the United States—a stopover certain to anger China.

Chen, accompanied by his wheelchaired wife Wu Shu-chen, departed from the northern Chiang Kai-shek airport on board an EVA Airways Boeing 747-400.

"As a sovereign state, Taiwan must stand up and walk out (toward the international society)," Chen said shortly before his departure.

"Taiwan must approach the world and have it be seen by the world," he added, remindful of Beijing's efforts to squeeze the island it regard as part of its territory awaiting reunification.

Chen was seen off by Vice President Annette Lu, parliament speaker Wang Jin-pyng, Premier Chang Chun-hsiung and other top government officials.

Among his entourage are Foreign Minister Tien Hung-mao, Economic Minister Lin Hsin-i, and powerful entrepreneurs including Jeffrey Koo, from the National Association of Industry and Commerce.

Chen arrives in New York late yesterday and will stay at the Waldorf Hotel. In a visit rich in symbolism, he will meet congressmen on Tuesday, then visit the metropolitan art museum and the Stock Exchange.

The trip, his second Latin American tour since his inauguration a year ago, will take Chen to El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Honduras.

In El Salvador he is to attend a Central American leaders summit.

Chen is due to return to the United States on the weekend of June 2-3 for a trip to Houston.

He will be hosted by Republican Tom DeLay, the majority whip of the US House of Representatives, and watch a baseball game before returning to Taiwan.

Political analysts said the high-profile US transit marked a shift of policy by George W. Bush's administration, whose relations with China have nosedived.

China has strongly opposed the US stopover and criticized Washington for granting Chen a visa.

"China strongly opposes any country, including of course the United States, allowing permission for Chen Shui-bian to visit under any name or style of visit," foreign ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi said. *AFP*

Pope, 180 cardinals meet on church strategy

VATICAN CITY—More than 180 cardinals meet here yesterday to discuss the role of the Roman Catholic Church in the third millennium, while talk on the sidelines was expected to focus on who might succeed the ailing Pope John Paul II.

It is the sixth time since the start of his pontificate that John Paul has called an extraordinary session of the so-called Sacred College of Cardinals.

But with the Pope aged 81 and in frail health, the three-day meeting, or consistory, will give cardinals from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific region an opportunity for wide contacts beyond the official agenda in view of the eventual election of the 265th pope.

The event is seen as a trial test for the 134 cardinals currently young enough to participate in the closed-door conclave which will one day choose the next pontiff.

Yesterday's gathering is the largest consistory ever and includes 44 cardinals named by the Pope in February.

The discussions by the 183 cardinals will be carried out behind closed doors.

The Pope was to make an opening address yesterday morning. In the afternoon, the archbishop of Paris, Jean-Marie Lustiger, was to present a broad outline of the church's proposed role in third millennium.

The cardinals on Tuesday will have the opportunity to speak on any subject of their choice

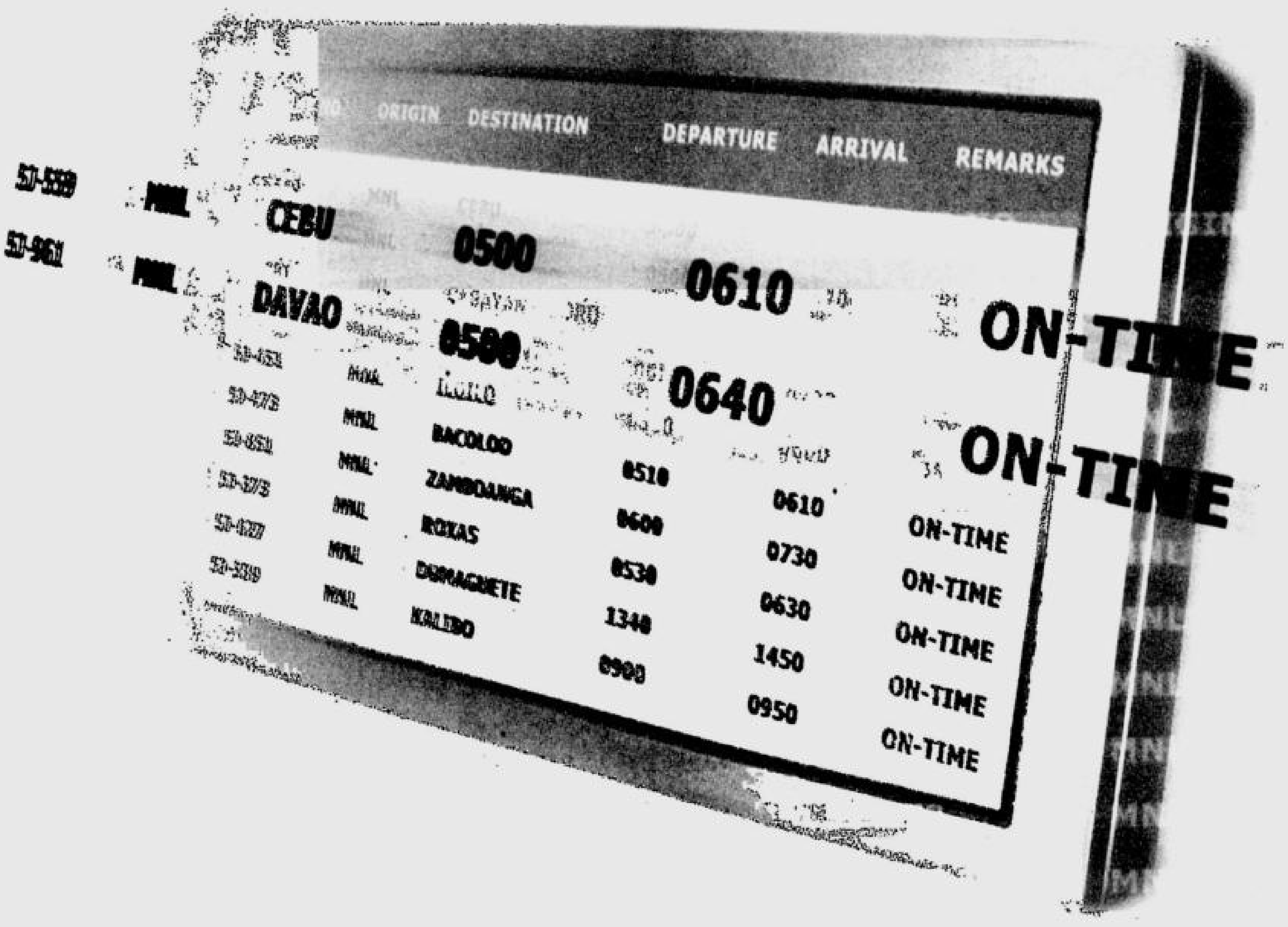
Following discussions in small groups on Wednesday, Mexican Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez, the archbishop of Guadalajara, will present a final summation

On Thursday, Ascension Day, the consistory will close with a Mass said by Pope John Paul II.

John Paul II has drawn up guidelines for the new millennium in a 70-page apostolic letter, dubbed Novo *millennio ineunte* (At the start of a new millennium), which was published on Jan. 6.

The four-chapter letter stressed as "indispensable" the Catholic Church's commitment to inter-religious dialogue and ecumenism after centuries-old divisions

The Pope's claim to being the prime church leader has made closer ties with other Christian denominations, notably Protestants and Orthodox churches, difficult. *AFP*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ILOILO	42 x weekly	P 2,498	P 2,199
BACOLOD	56 x weekly	P 2,498	P 2,199
ZAMBOANGA	14 x weekly	P 3,295	P 2,639
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Shipwreck artifacts lost to antique dealers

By Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STA. CRUZ, Zambales—Thousands of artifacts have already been taken out of what is believed to be the wreckage of a 16th-century Chinese merchant vessel in the waters off this coastal town.

Local divers or those who contracted them have reportedly begun selling the relics—Chinese pottery believed to date back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)—to antique collectors and dealers.

Since May 10, the Philippine Coast Guard has secured the wreck site, some 110 feet below sea level between the islands of Hermana Mayor and Hermana Menor. The islands are six nautical miles west of Sta. Cruz, northernmost town of Zambales near its boundary with Pangasinan.

100 divers

Some fishermen and local Coast Guard personnel said, however, that at least three days before May 10, close to 100 local divers have descended at the wreck site, many of them allegedly brought in by the local police.

German wreck diving expert Klaus Sowade, whose group Stingray Divers is helping the Coast Guard in retrieval operations, estimated that "thousands have already been taken out" by these divers from a rare archeological find that "properly belongs to the Filipino people."

One proof that the government may have already lost a huge chunk of the sunken "pieces of history" is the latest addition to the antique collection of the wife of reelected Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

In a chance meeting in Masinloc town, Rosellyn Magsaysay showed off three pieces of Chinese pottery unmistakably salvaged from the wreck site off Sta. Cruz that she just bought in Subic, southernmost town of Zambales.

The artifacts, like those that this correspondent saw at the Coast Guard detachment in Magsaysay Park in Barangay Poblacion here, were still covered with coral and mud.

"I bought them only for P4,000," Mrs. Magsaysay told Sowade and his Filipino wife Julie.

The 60-year-old Sowade, whose experience in underwater archeological exploration spans some 30 years, said the relics—a jar and two huge bowls—could be worth $5,000 each.

Retrieval work

This correspondent, two other Olongapo-based reporters and a television crew from RPN-9 visited the wreck site Sunday and saw the Coast Guard divers retrieve some more artifacts, including a jar with embossed design typical of Ming Dynasty pottery.

The shipwreck itself is barely visible and which was said to be buried under layers of corals, mud and sand. Stingray divers have recovered a piece of wood believed to be from the still unidentified vessel, which was turned over to the National Museum along with some artifacts.

Sowade said, however, the wreckage appears to be that of a Chinese junk, not a Spanish galleon as earlier reported. His theory is that the vessel may have encountered bad weather en route to Manila, tried to seek shelter near Hermana Mayor but hit a reef and sank.

The site was discovered as early as 1987 by a local fisherman, Armando Mirano, known here as "Mang Dong."

"*Namamana ho ako ng isda sa ilalim ng dagat. May hinabol akong malaking isdang loro, napapunta sa buhanginan. Doon sa hinintuan ng loro, nakita ko 'yung mga banga* (I was spear-fishing then. I chased a big fish and it stopped in a sandy area. I saw the jars on the spot where the fish stopped)," Mirano recalled.

He said he took two jars ashore, which he used as flower vases, but never went back to retrieve more from the site.

"*Naisip ko po mahalaga 'yun. Hindi ko lang po nilabas dahil alam ko, pag nalaman ng iba, magulo lang yon. Gaya ngayon, mayroon na ngang namatay* (I thought that those were priceless materials. I did not announce my discovery because I know that if other people would know it, there would be chaos. Look at the way things are happening now, there are people dying)," he said.

Death

A local diver, identified as Michael de los Reyes, recently died from pressure and lack of oxygen when his compressor lost fuel under the sea. De los Reyes was part of a group that conducted deep-sea diving without permission from the local Coast Guard.

Mirano said late last month, he was prodded by officials of the Philippine National Police Maritime Command to return to the area where he found the jars. He said he does not know how they learned about it or why they asked him to locate the site.

"*Basta't ang sabi nila sa akin, hanapin lang daw ang banga. Nahanap ko naman, nag-ahon ako ng isang bangang maliit at umuwi na kami* (They just told me to find the jars. I found the site and I salvaged a small jar then we went home)," he said.

While they went back to the site the following day, Mirano said no diving operation was conducted.

"*Mga pangatlong araw, 'yung isang tauhan ko, sumigaw, tinuro sa pulis. Dahil di na siguro niya matiis, gusto niyang kumuha na kami ng marami* (On the third day, one of my men shouted and pointed the site to policemen. He did it because, maybe, he could not contain his excitement and he wanted us to salvage more jars)," he said.

Rampage

Thereafter, all hell broke loose.

"*Rambulan na po diyan sa mga banga na 'yan. Marami nang bangka, marami na ring nadi-disgrasya* (After that, it was a free-for-all for the possession of those jars. Many boats have frequented the site and more divers and fishermen have met accidents)," Mirano said.

"*Diyan sa* Riverside, *halos lahat ng bahay diyan meron nang banga* (At Riverside, almost all houses there have ancient jars)," he added, pointing to the fishing village at the shoreline.

Many of the artifacts at the Coast Guard detachment in Barangay Poblacion were already broken.

Sowade said local divers pry and break the artifacts out of the hardened corrals and mud, causing "enormous damage." He said professional wreck divers used special equipment to lift the items buried in the seabed.

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3 soldiers, 4 others hurt in Marawi blast; more troops deployed

MARAWI CITY—Three soldiers and four civilians were wounded when a grenade exploded near the main gate of the provincial gym here Sunday night.

The explosion occurred immediately after the counting of ballots from Ganassi town ended.

The military said the grenade thrower could be a supporter of a losing mayoral candidate of Ganassi.

Wounded in the explosion were Pfc. Dandy Reyes, Pfc. Reynante Caballero and Pfc. Roberto Abing, all of the Army's 67th Infantry Battalion; Kunto Laguindab and Mike Macaindig.

On Friday, three grenades launched from an M-203 rifle exploded near the Provincial Engineering Office, the proposed venue for the city canvassing.

More troops were sent yesterday to Marawi City following the grenade attack.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said a company of 200 soldiers was sent to augment the two army battalions already deployed in Lanao del Sur.

He said military commanders in the area feared that more violence would erupt, especially now that municipal canvassing would be over soon.

On Saturday night, unidentified men burned a school building in Buadi-puso town.

In Cotabato City, Vice Gov. Datu Guimid Matalam of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Sunday urged losing candidates to help ease the tension gripping the region by conceding defeat.

Matalam said it was not very remote that the tension could lead to violent events.

"I am appealing to the candidates to accept the will of the people. If they lost in the elections, they can always try next time. It will be more dignified for them if they already concede and stop making noises, which could fuel the anger of their supporters," Matalam said.

Earlier, Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamco, commanding general of the Army's 6th ID, said tension was brewing between rival politicians.

Kyamco said the longer the canvassing was delayed because of objections from losing candidates, the bigger the tension would become.

He said a number of politicians have armed followers which could be drawn to violence.

Matalam said politicians should learn to accept the fact that victory does not always come easy.

"Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. The most decent thing to do now is accept the defeat. Be man enough because the people are the ones suffering already," he said.

The camp of Gov. Zacaria Candao again hit Kyamco for claiming that the reelectionist executive has no chance of winning in several municipalities in Maguindanao's second district.

Kyamco said these areas belonged to the known turf of Datu Andal Ampatuan, Candao's main rival in the gubernatorial race.

But Assam Ulangkaya, Candao's son-in-law, said they were surprised at the way the military predicted that Ampatuan would lead in the second district although the provincial canvassing has yet to start. ***Violeta Gloria, Froilan Gallardo and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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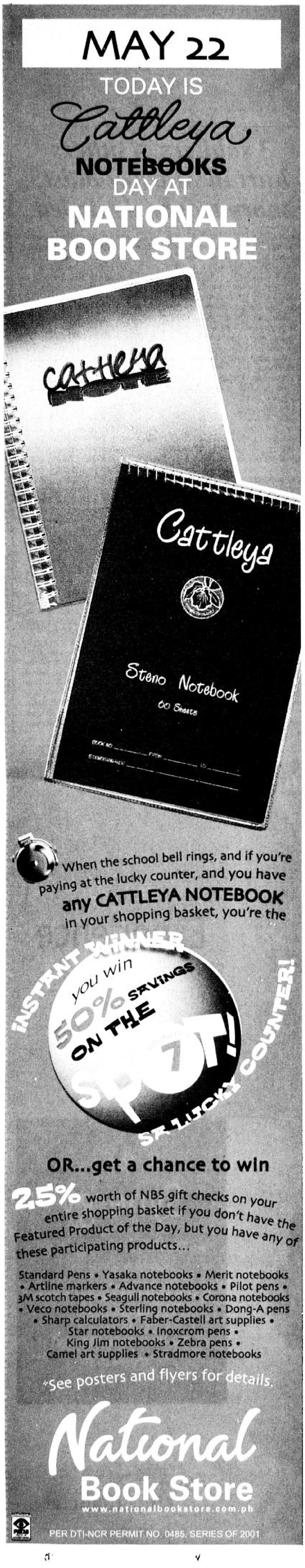
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Daza proclaimed gov amid fraud raps

By Cynthia Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CATARMAN, Northern Samar—The provincial board of canvassers yesterday proclaimed former Rep. Raul Daza and two of his allies in the opposition Liberal Party as winners in the gubernatorial and congressional races.

But the People Power Coalition-Lakas-NUCD refused to give up and filed a petition before the Commission on Elections, seeking to nullify the proclamation.

Daza was proclaimed governor with 93,366 votes. His rival, reelectionist Gov. Madeline Ong (PPC-Lakas), got 71,411.

Incumbent Rep. Harlin Abayon (LP, first district) defeated Theodoro Jumamil (PPC-Lakas) by 18,931 votes. Abayon got 47,746 votes and Jumamil, 28,815.

Jose Ong, the governor's brother-in-law, lost in his bid for a congressional seat in the second district. Rep. Romualdo Vicencio won a second term with 36,823 votes while Jose Ong only got 27,862.

The proclamation came a day after a stone-throwing incident on Sunday that wounded a supporter of PPC-Lakas-NUCD and another from LP.

"I feel relieved now, in fact, very happy that the people have chosen me as their governor," said Daza, one of the lawyers of ex-President Estrada in the impeachment trial.

He denied allegations by the PPC-Lakas-NUCD that he and his allies cheated last election. "No, the people here know whom to vote," he said.

Protest

But the PPC-Lakas lawyers asked the Comelec to annul the proclamation of Daza, Abayon and Vicencio on the ground that the opposition committed "massive cheating" in the May 14 polls.

"There was massive electoral fraud and we have evidence to justify our petition," said Ramon Calubag, PPC-Lakas legal counsel.

The PPC-Lakas-NUCD had earlier asked that the canvassing be suspended and a failure of election be declared in the province.

But the Comelec denied the petition on Sunday for lack of sufficient evidence.

The denial of the petition signaled the resumption of the canvassing on Sunday after it was suspended Thursday night.

Barely two hours before the canvassing was to resume at 3 p.m., stones flew between supporters of PPC-Lakas-NUCD and LP who massed at the provincial capitol.

A PPC-Lakas-NUCD supporter and another from the LP were hit by stones.

The policemen and Army soldiers had to fire warning shots to stop the opposing groups from throwing more stones.

Puerto Princesa

In Palawan, the son of missing Gov. Salvador Socrates, lawyer Dennis Socrates, has been proclaimed mayor of Puerto Princesa City.

Socrates, who challenged Mayor Edward Hagedorn in previous elections, finally won the post.

Socrates was declared winner by Arsenio Guste, officer-in-charge of the Commission on Elections city office, at 3:55 p.m. yesterday. He edged his nearest rival, Dr. Diomedes de Guzman, by more than 13,000 votes.

Socrates had a total of 23,818 votes, while De Guzman had 10,718.

The canvassing was suspended for a day on Thursday after Hagedorn complained of election violations committed by some candidates before and during Election Day.

Laguna

In Laguna, a political watchdog has questioned the reelection of Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and urged the Commission on Elections to resolve quickly the disqualification charges against her.

The Comelec earlier found Lazaro to have violated numerous election laws, including the spending of almost P100 million in government money to support her candidacy.

Just before the May 14 polls, the Comelec's second division voted to disqualify Lazaro and ordered the provincial Comelec to strike out her name from the list of candidates.

Lazaro's lawyer, however, promptly filed a motion for reconsideration at the Comelec office in Manila, stalling the suspension.

Mar Mendoza of Pangkat Laguna, the group that filed the petition, said: "The victim is the truth. Such suspension of the implementation of the ruling due to a motion for reconsideration filed by Lazaro's camp has misled people into believing that there was no disqualification at all."

"Unless the disqualification is carried out, whatever the outcome of the ongoing counting of votes in Laguna will be polluted and will not be reflective of the true will of the people," he said. ***With reports from Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Who's winning, who's losing in local polls

(Due to space constraints, we are excluding from the list candidates who were earlier proclaimed winners by the Commission on Elections and whose names appeared in the May 21, 2001 issue of the Inquirer.--Ed.)

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

APAYAO	
Lone District	
Elias Bulut Jr. (NPC)	2,351
Noble Perez (Lakas-NUCD)	1,621
Governor	
Elias Bulut Sr. (NPC)	2,351
Ambaro Sagle (Reporma-LM)	731
ISABELA	
District 4	
(Comelec: Returns from Santiago City pending)	
Antonio Abaya	25,869
Giorgigi Aggabao	20,777

CENTRAL LUZON

PAMPANGA	
District 3	
(Comelec: Final)	
Oscar Rodriguez (Lakas)	104,272
Rosve Henson (NPC)	44,047
Governor (Proclaimed)	
Manuel Lapid (Lakas)	
NUEVA ECIJA	
District 2	
(Comelec: 6 of 8 towns)	
Eleuterio Violago (Lakas)	36,580
Simeon Garcia Jr. (Balane)	25,604
District 4	
(Comelec: 5 of 8 towns)	
Raul Villareal	52,957
Gregorio Manuel	21,551
Governor (proclaimed)	
Tomas Joson III (Balane)	
BULACAN (proclaimed)	
District 1	
Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado (Lakas)	
District 4	
Reylina Nicolas (Lakas)	
Governor	
Josefina de la Cruz (Lakas)	

SOUTHERN TAGALOG

BATANGAS (proclaimed)	
District 1	
Ermita-Buhain, Elenita R.(L)	
District 2	
Perez, Francisco II S. (Lakas)	
District 3	
Reyes, Victoria H. (Reporma)	
District 4	
Gozos, Oscar L. (Lakas)	
Governor	
Mandanas, Hermilando (R)	
CAVITE	
District 1	
Abaya, Plaridel M. (LP)	59,108
Guerrero, Leonardo L. (Lakas)	10,159
District 2	
Dragon, Renato (Ind.-Magdalo)	29,763
Remulla, Gilbert (Magdalo)	102,269
Velasco, Epimaco A. (Lakas)	75,934
District 3	
Pantilo, Jose Marcel E. (Lakas)	24,404
Beratio, Napoleon R. (PM)	57,420
Beltran, Raymundo N. (Kampi)	24,142
Governor	
Maliksi, Erineo S. (PM)	370,004
Revilla, Ramon Jr. B. (Lakas)	271,245
LAGUNA	
District 1 (Proclaimed)	
Joaquin, Uliran T. (NPC)	
District 2 (Proclaimed)	
Chipeco, Joaquin (Kampi)	
District 3 (Proclaimed)	
Bueser, Danton Q. (LP)	
District 4	
San Luis, Rodolfo S. (LDP)	16,102
Governor (Proclaimed)	
Lazaro, Teresita S. (PMP)	
ORIENTAL MINDORO	
(Namfrel: 81 precincts)	
District 1	
Leviste, Charity P. (Lakas)	61,728
Manzo, Dante A.	41,482
District 2	
Andaya, Manuel D.G. (Lakas)	26,603
Punzalan, Jesus M. (Lakas)	28,643
Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. (LP)	30,317
Governor	
(Comelec: final, unofficial)	
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr.(L)	113,406
Valencia, Challe P. (LP)	92,585
QUEZON (proclaimed)	
District 1	
Nantes, Rafael P. (LP)	37,490
District 2	
Punzalan, Lynnette A.	
District 3	
Suarez, Aleta Catarina (LP)	
District 4	
Yumul Georgilu (PMP)	
Governor	
Enverga, Wilfrido L. (Reporma)	
MARINDUQUE (Proclaimed)	
Lone district	
Reyes, Edmundo Jr.(Lakas)	
Governor	
Reyes, Carmencita (Lakas)	
PALAWAN	
District 1	
Sandoval, Vicente (Lakas)	29,803
Acosta, Andrei (Ind.)	410
District 2	
Mitra, Abraham (Lakas)	33,743
Demaala, Clarito Jr. (LDP)	15,229
Pena, Teodoro (PDP-Laban)	14,939
Governor	
Reyes, Joel (Lakas)	105,838
Hagedorn, Edward (NPC)	73,318

BICOL

SORSOGON	
(Comelec. 9 towns)	
District 1	
Escudero, Francis G. (NPC)	26,736
Gohol, Gil S. (Lakas-NUCD)	7,889
District 2	
Gonzales, Rodolfo F. (Lakas)	34,067
Solis, Jose G. (Ind.)	48,859
Governor	
Lee, Raul (LDP)	67,598
Guab, Romeo (Lakas)	25,911
CAMARINES SUR	
(Namfrel: As of May 21)	
District 1	
Andaya, Rolando Jr. G. (Lakas)	67,165
Genova, Roberto U. (LDP)	28,736
District 2	
Roco, Sulpicio Jr. S. (Aksyon)	45,162
San Buenaventura, L. E. (L)	16,907
Villafuerte, Mariano Jose (LDP)	32,385
District 3	
Fuentebella, Felix William(NPC)	35,763
Pilapil, Eduardo P. (LDP)	22,043
District 4	
Alfelor, Felix (Lakas-NUCD)	45,347
Fortuno, Salvio B. (LDP)	49,117
Governor	
(Excludes Iriga City and Buhi)	
Villafuerte, Luis R. (LDP)	242,646
Villamayor, Nora C. (Lakas)	93,324
CAMARINES NORTE (proclaimed)	
Lone District	
Unico, Renato Jr. (Lakas)	
Governor	
Typoco, Jesus Jr. (Lakas)	
CATANDUANES (proclaimed)	
Lone District	
Santiago, Joseph (NPC)	
Governor	
Verceles, Leandro (Ind.)	37,084
MASBATE (proclaimed)	
District 1	
Espinosa, Vida (NPC)	
District 2	
Espinosa, Emilio Jr. (INA-NPC)	
District 3	
Seachon, Fausto Jr. (NPC-INA)	
Governor	
Kho, Antonio (Reporma)	
ALBAY (proclaimed)	
District 1	
Lagman-Lulstro, Krisel B. (L)	
District 2	
Imperial, Carlos D. R. (NPC)	
District 3	
Salceda, Jose Ma. S. (Lakas)	
Governor	
Bichara, Al Francis (Lakas)	

WESTERN VISAYAS

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	
District 1	
(Comelec: 16 of 19 towns and 9 of 13 cities)	
Julio Ledesma IV (UNA)	32,446
District 3	
Jose Carlos Lacson (UNA)	41,857
District 4 (proclaimed)	
District 5	
Jose Apolinario (Lakas)	56,686
BACOLOD CITY	
Lone District (Proclaimed)	
Monico Puentebella (Lakas-PPC)	
ILOILO	
District 1	
(Comelec: 7 of 7 towns)	
Proclamation suspended	
Oscar Garin (NPC)	63,496
Jaime Torres (Lakas NUCD)	59,846
District 3	
(Comelec: 5 of 9 towns)	
Arthur Defensor (Lakas)	70,251
District 4	
(Comelec: 4 of 8 towns)	
Narciso Monfort (Lakas)	55,540
Governor	
(Comelec: 41 of 42 towns, 1 city)	
Niel Tupas (LDP)	304,231
Demy Sonza (Lakas)	228,083
GUIMARAS	
(Comelec: 249 of 364 precincts, 68.4%)	
Lone District	
Edgar Espinosa (Lakas)	14,863
Vicente de Asis (LDP)	12,150
Governor	
Rahman Nava (LDP)	24,207
Gerry Yucon (Lakas)	8,887

CENTRAL VISAYAS

CEBU	
District 1 (Proclaimed)	
Jose Gullas (Alayon)	
District 2 (Proclaimed)	
Simeon Kintanar (Alayon)	
District 3	
(Comelec: 6 of 6 towns and one city)	
Antonio Yapha Jr. (Alayon)	45,215
Jose Soberano III (Promdi)	29,999
District 4 (Proclaimed)	
Clavel Asas-Martinez (Promdi)	
District 5 (Proclaimed)	
Joseph Felix Durano (Alayon)	
District 6	
(Comelec: 2 of 2 towns and 2 cities)	
Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (Alayon)	18,047
Efren Herrera (Promdi)	12,321
Governor	
(Comelec: 44 of 47 towns and 5 cities)	
Pablo Garcia (Promdi)	277,648
Fernando Celeste (Alayon)	254,998
CEBU CITY	
(Comelec: 315 of 1,985 precincts or 15.86%)	
North District	
Raul Del Mar (Promdi-PPC)	7,611
Florencio Villarin (Ind.)	965
South District	
Antonio Cuenco (Promdi)	11,675
Aristotle Batuhan (Alayon)	10,705
Mayor	
Tomas Osmeña (BOPK-PPC)	18,525
Alvin Garcia (Kusog)	18,356
BOHOL (Proclaimed)	
District 1	
Edgar Chatto (PDP)	
District 2	
Roberto Cajes (Lakas-PPC)	
Governor	
Erico Aumentado (Lakas-Promdi)	

EASTERN VISAYAS

LEYTE	
District 1	
(Comelec: 7 of 7 towns and 1 city)	
Ted Failon (Ind.)	55,758
Alfred Romualdez (NPC-KBL)	50,736
District 4	
(Comelec: 5 of 6 towns, 1 city)	
Eufrocino Codilla Sr.	34,275
Victoria Larrazabal-Locsin	28,066
District 5	
(Comelec: 8 of 9 towns)	
Eriberto Veloso Loreto (LDP)	29,823
Carmen Loreto Cari (Lakas)	32,415
Governor	
Comelec: 39 of 41 towns and 1 city)	
Remedios Petilla (Lakas)	246,977
Catalina Loreto-GO (LDP)	137,747
TACLOBAN CITY	
Mayor (suspended canvassing)	
(Namfrel: 400 of 444 precincts or 90%)	
Alfredo Romualdez	26,625
Mimiette Bagulaya	11,300
EASTERN SAMAR	
Governor	
Clotilde Salazar (NPC)	41,229
Jose Ramirez (Lakas)	39,608
Ruperto Ambil (LDP)	33,257
NORTHERN SAMAR (Proclaimed)	
District 1	
Harlin Abayon (LP)	
District 2	
Romualdo Vicencio(Lakas)	
Governor	
Raul Daza (LP)	
SAMAR	
(Only 2 precincts left to be counted)	
District 1	
Reynaldo Uy (LP)	50,920
Paz Tuazon (Lakas)	50,802
District 2 (Proclaimed)	
Antonio Eduardo Nachura (LP)	
Governor (Proclaimed)	
Milagros Tan (PMP)	
SOUTHERN LEYTE	
Lone District (final)	
Anecito Saludo (Lakas)	65,777
Rebert Castañares (NPC)	57,577
Governor	
Rosette Lerias (NPC)	67,453
Roger Mercado (Lakas)	65,614

MINDANAO

BUKIDNON	
District 2	
Ancheta, Berthobal (Lakas)	
District 3	
Zubiri, Juan Miguel (Lakas)	
Governor	
Zubiri, Jose (Lakas-NUCD)	
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	
(Namfrel: As of May 18)	
Lone district	
Jaraula, Constantino (PnM)	54,591
Damasing, Erasmo (Lakas)	39,223
COMPOSTELA VALLEY	
District 1	
Garcia, Florante (Reporma)	29,297
Zamora, Manuel (Lakas)	33,290
District 2	
Amatong, Prospero (Lakas)	37,698
Uy, Arturo (Reporma)	36,398
DAVAO CITY	
(Namfrel: 2,848 of 3,055 precincts, 89%)	
District 1	
Nograles, Prospero (Lakas)	84,190
Avisado, Wendell (PDP)	42,894
District 2	
Garcia, Vicente (NPC)	24,291
Alterado, Sinforiano (PMP)	21,412
Nograles, Gerardo (Kampi)	18,967
Aportadera, Abellardo (Rep.)	12,156
Orcullo, Nenita (PDP)	14,557
Bian, Joji (Lakas-Aksyon)	9,953
District 3	
Lopez, Ruy Elias (NPC)	46,514
Rodriguez, Sonja (Ind.)	13,678
Dolor, Allan (LDP)	12,124
Lopez, Jose (Ind.)	5,937
DAVAO DEL NORTE	
(Namfrel: As of 8 a.m.)	
District 1	
Lemos, Meliton (Reporma)	14,642
Olano, Arel (Lakas)	15,944
Sator, Baltazar (PDSP)	14,620
District 2)	
MISAMIS ORIENTAL	
(Comelec: 19 of 24 towns)	
District 1	
Moreno, Oscar (Lakas-NUCD)	24,416
Ursal, Allan (LDP)	10,880
District 2	
Baculio, Augusto (LDP)	25,815
Chaves, Victorico (Lakas)	12,830
Governor	
Calingin, Antonio (LDP)	45,801
Lagbas, Danilo (Lakas-NUCD)	35,332
CAMIGUIN	
Lone District	
Romualdo, Pedro J. (NPC)	
Governor	
Romualdo, Pedro (Lakas)	23,189
Neri, Juan Margarito (NP/PPC)	12,142
NORTH COTABATO	
(Namfrel: 18 towns)	
District 1	
Diaz, Rosario (Lakas-NUCD)	12,288
Talino-Santos, Emmylou (Ind.)	38,544
District 2	
Ipong, Gregorio (NPC)	44,562
Andolana, Gregorio (Lakas)	15,714
Baynosa, Freddie (Lihok)	13,342
SOUTH COTABATO	
(Namfrel: As of 10:51 a.m., May 18)	
District 1 (Gen. Santos City)	
Antonino-Custodio, D. (NPC)	
District 2	
Pingoy, Arthur (NPC)	
Governor	
Fuentes, Daisy (NPC)	
COTABATO CITY	
Lone District	
Abed Ayunan (Independent)	4,642
Arnel Datukon (Lakas)	12,081
Didagen Dilangalen (NPC)	23,301
SURIGAO DEL SUR	
District 1	
Prospero Pichay (Lakas-NUCD)	65,257
Mario Lumanao (LP)	27,620
District 2	
Jesnar Falcon (NPC)	42,680
Alberto Tan (Lakas-NUCD)	26,622
ZAMBOANGA CITY	
(Namfrel: 922 precincts)	
Lone District	
Lobregat, Celso (LDP)	50,425
Arañez, Efren (Lakas-NUCD)	16,362
Climaco, Luis (PDP)	18,432

Slain mayoral bet buried as suspect placed behind bars

By M.D. Labiste and N. Burgos
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOAQUIN, Iloilo—This town buried a well-loved son at Sunday noon while his alleged assailant was placed behind bars.

Some 3,000 mourners attended the Mass and necrological service for Jesus Sibya Jr., a mayoral candidate who was shot dead allegedly by incumbent Mayor Sebastian Serag on May 11.

As Sibya was buried at the municipal cemetery, Serag was turned over to the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center, 10 days after staying at the Iloilo Doctor's Hospital for treatment of hypertension.

Serag is facing charges of murder and frustrated murder for the death of Sibya. He lost his reelection bid by 2,000 votes to Sibya's widow Daisy, who replaced her husband as Reporma mayoral candidate.

During the necrological rites at the covered gym near the municipal hall, Sen. Franklin Drilon promised to "use his power as a senator to bring justice for Sibya's death."

Drilon, who set foot here for the first time, recalled Sibya's desire to serve his constituents and his quiet demeanor, which, he said, was not typical of many politicians.

Gov. Arthur Defensor said Sibya's death brought a message that political violence and cheating during elections should stop.

Tribute

He paid tribute to Sibya's accomplishments as a three-term mayor of the town from 1988 to 1998. "Sibya is the new hero of San Joaquin and Iloilo province," Defensor said.

Wearing a thin, black veil, Daisy kept her composure throughout the rites. While tears streamed down her face, she only let a dignified sob when she took a last look at her husband's remains.

The mayor-elect of San Joaquin thanked Drilon, Defensor and all those who condoled with her and her sons, Jesus Manuel III, 20, and Jaime Luiz, 11.

In Iloilo City, a handful of relatives and friends went to the IRC on Sunday to visit Serag, who was locked in an isolation cell reserved for prisoners charged with heinous crimes.

Serag was with his co-accused Lino Napao, barangay chair of Balabago, San Joaquin.

Supt. Efren Quintos, IRC warden, said the ordinary cells could not accommodate Serag because some detainees from San Joaquin, who might be sympathetic to Sibya, might harm him.

He said Serag would not enjoy a special treatment at the IRC. The incumbent mayor is not allowed to have a television set and an air-conditioning unit, only a stove for cooking his rations.

Garins

Serag is the brother of Iloilo Rep. Ninfa Garin of the first district, whose husband Oscar is seeking to replace her in Congress.

In the Commission on Elections tally, Oscar Garin (NPC) was ahead of his rival, Jaime Torres (Lakas-NUCD), by 3,650 votes. Garin received 63,496, while Torres got 59,846.

But Comelec suspended Garin's proclamation on Sunday after Torres filed a petition for disqualification, alleging that Garin "committed acts of terrorism."

The proclamation would remain suspended until further orders from the poll body, said Ralph Lantion, Comelec commissioner in charge for Regions 3 and 6, in a resolution dated May 20.

Cornelio Panes, Garin's legal counsel, said Torres' petition was "frivolous and without factual and legal basis."

He said the suspension order was issued hastily in less than three hours after it was filed on a Sunday, without giving his client proper notice.

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Model: **Adventure GLX Gas**
SRP: **P610,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P44,719	P30,980	P24,731	P17,796	P14,374	P13,039

Model: **Endeavor**
SRP: **P705,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P51,684	P35,805	P28,583	P20,567	P16,613	P15,069

* Bank Rates as of April 1, 2001

Model: **Lancer GLX M/T**
SRP: **P615,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P45,086	P31,234	P24,934	P17,942	P14,492	P13,146

Model: **L300FB - Dual Aircon**
SRP: **P542,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P39,734	P27,527	P21,974	P15,812	P12,772	P11,585

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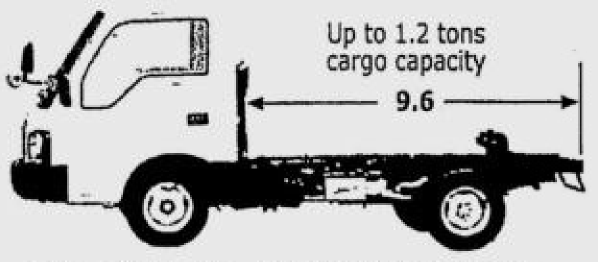

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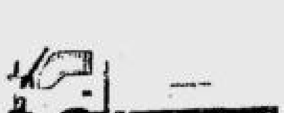
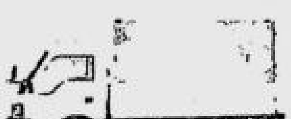
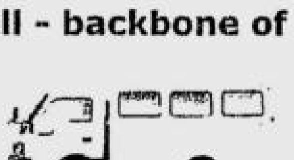


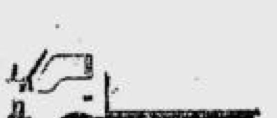
Dropside Pickup



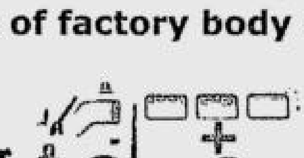
Aluminum Van



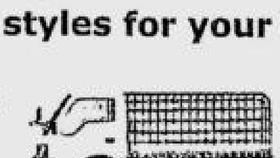
Panoramic Van



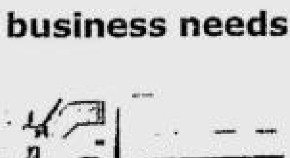
Flatbed



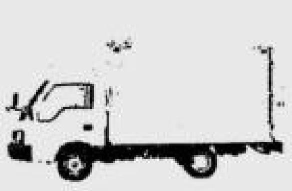
Ambulance



Stake Body



Trash Buggy



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* depending on body application

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New political dynasty rises in Biliran; reelectionist solon, sons win

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A political dynasty appears to be rising in Biliran where one family will soon occupy the congressional, gubernatorial and two mayoral seats.

Rep. Gerardo "Gerry" Espina Sr. won a third-term for the lone district of Biliran, defeating lawyer Ruben Almadro in the May 14 polls.

His eldest son Rogelio was elected governor. His namesake, Gerardo Jr., was reelected mayor of the capital town of Naval. Another son, Rudy, defeated the incumbent mayor of Kawayan town.

All four ran under their local party, Bando Espina.

The provincial board of canvassers of Biliran proclaimed Gerry winner in the congressional race after he garnered 29,325 votes.

Gerry won by a margin of 7,005 votes over his rival, Almadro of the local party, Pundok Biliranon, who got 22,320.

Almadro is the former head of the Compliance and Surveillance Team of the Philippine Stock Exchange that investigated the BW Resources Corp. scandal involving Dante Tan, a crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Almadro later testified in the impeachment trial against Estrada.

This was the second time that Almadro and Gerry met in the political arena in Biliran. The first was in 1998 when Gerry also defeated Almadro in the congressional race.

Rogelio, a physician and political neophyte, was proclaimed winner in the gubernatorial race, defeating veteran politicians.

The governor-elect garnered a total of 25,756 votes. His rivals were incumbent Gov. Danilo Parilla (15,803), former Gov. Wayne Jaro (13,071), and former Biliran Lt. Gov. Jose Gonzales (2,612) who led Biliran when the island was still a sub-province of Leyte.

The Philippine Information Agency in Biliran reported that Gerardo Jr., or Gerryboy, was reelected mayor of Naval. He defeated former Naval Mayor Simeon Pitao of Pundok Biliranon.

Rudy defeated incumbent Kawayan Mayor Caridad Atop-Ang, also of Pundok Biliranon, according to a report of a Tacloban-based newspaper.

ROUNDUP

Quarry equipment burned

DAVAO CITY—Some 20 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas burned millions of pesos worth of quarrying equipment owned by North American Crusher and Algon Constructions in Barangay Gumalang, Baguio District here early yesterday. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, said the rebels burned a payloader and backhoe after company officials refused to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the NPA. No one was hurt in the incident.

Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Prisoner shot dead

DIGOS CITY—A suspected car thief, who was captured after escaping from the Kiblawan town jail on May 18, was killed when he allegedly tried to grab the M-16 rifle of his police escort on Saturday. Joey Nocillas was shot and killed by Insp. Benito Ricopuerto, Kiblawan police chief. Ricopuerto said the prisoner, who was arrested by militiamen in Matanao town, was riding on a motorcycle on his way back to Kiblawan when he tried to grab the rifle of PO3 Nestor Dura.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ambush suspects charged

DIGOS CITY—Police in Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur, said frustrated murder charges would be filed against the suspects in the May 8 ambush of reelectionist Mayor Rudy Mariscal. The victim survived the attack unharmed. Insp. Gabriel Aceo Luceñara Jr., Sta. Maria police chief, identified the suspects as William Mangayao and Undo Basino.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gunmen kill cop

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Armed men in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, gunned down a policeman assigned at the regional police office here on Friday. Reports said SPO3 Noel Marasigan, 40, the chief clerk of police regional director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., was shot and killed by three men while he was about to board his car in Barangay Siksikan-Matanda in Talavera about 4:15 a.m. Marasigan was preparing to leave for Camp Olivas when he was attacked.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tobacco agency chief

VIGAN CITY—Lawyer Carlitos Encarnacion took his oath last week as the new administrator of the National Tobacco Administration. Encarnacion, a native of Vigan, was deputy NTA administrator before his appointment. He also served as special assistant of the office of the chairman in the defunct Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration in the 1960s.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Defenders of Bataan

THE DEFENDERS of Bataan and Corregidor (DBC), composed of veterans of the US Armed Forces in the Far East, will inaugurate the Bridge of Remembrance at the Capas National Shrine in Tarlac on May 26. A memorial marker will be blessed by Bishop Coleso Guevara, bishop emeritus of Balanga, in a simple ceremony. Retired Lt. Gen. Eduardo Batanga, defense undersecretary for veterans affairs, will be guest speaker. National and local government officials and officers of veterans organizations will attend.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 3° Lo 21°	**Baguio** Hi 2° Lo 1°	**Tuguegarao** Hi 36° Lo 22°	**Laoag** Hi 34° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 33° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** Hi 31° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** Hi 34° Lo 26°	**Calapan** Hi 34° Lo 25°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	**Roxas** Hi 32° Lo 24°	**Cebu** Hi 32° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** Hi 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** Hi 31° Lo 23°	**Cagayan de Oro** Hi 32° Lo 23°	**Davao** Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

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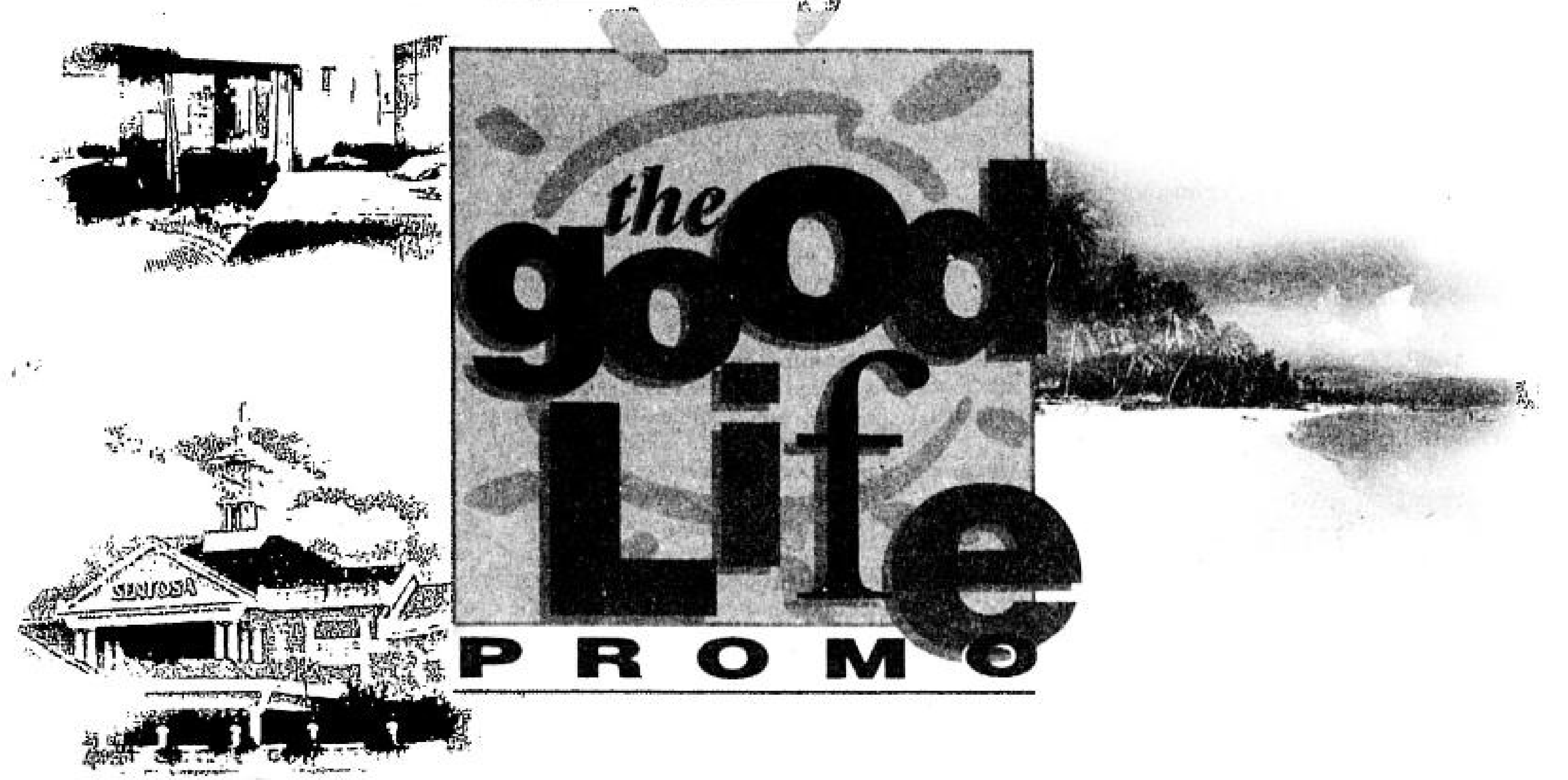

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2nd Prize—3 days/ 2 nights in Singapore for 2 and S$1,000 cash
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Raffle Draw Date: November 5, 2001 (cut-off date for ADB computation is on October 31, 2001)

PROMO PERIOD: May 2 to October 31, 2001

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1 For every P20,000 ADB in Keppel Bank's ATM Savings, Ordinary Savings and Checking, Pro-Client Checking or Pro Client Plus during the promo period, an account automatically earns a point for the raffle draw.
2 If ADB falls below P20,000 anytime during the promo period, account does not earn points until ADB reaches P20,000. Those points previously earned are still credited for the raffle.
3 Cut-off date for ADB computation is every month-end.
4 Winners will be determined through a computerized draw. The computer shall generate the account number to be included in the raffle based on the points earned.
5 The account number will serve as the raffle number. The number of points earned from each account will be equivalent to the number of times the account number will be generated for the raffle.
6 An account can only win once on the same raffle date. In case an account is drawn more than once, the account holder is entitled to claim the prize of higher value.
7 Winners shall be informed through registered mail and through a one-time newspaper ad of national circulation.
8 All accounts named or affixed to Keppel Bank, its employees, advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the raffle.
9 The redemption period for the prizes is within sixty (60) days from notification. The trip prizes can be availed within sixty (60) days from the date the winner claimed the prize. Failure to redeem within this period shall mean forfeiture of the prize with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
10 Travel prizes are subject to confirmation by the official travel agency. Allow two (2) weeks notification before date of travel for airline booking and hotel reservations. All travel document expenses will be shouldered by the winner.
11 All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
12 In case of complaints, the decision of Keppel Bank, along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall be deemed final.
13 All raffle prizes are tax-free.
14 Raffle draw dates will be on August 6, 2001 and November 5, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Keppel Bank Head Office, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue Corner Monte De Piedad St., Cubao, Q. C.

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PPC shows video of fraud in Northern Samar

(From page A1)

alty is not to any political party but to those who can pay their price," he said.

He declined to disclose the identities of the syndicate members pending additional background check on them.

But the two PPC supporters, who told the INQUIRER that they took the footage about 30 meters from the window of the San Isidro session hall, readily named names.

They identified those caught on camera as Fernando Avila, Liberal Party incumbent mayoral candidate in San Juan; his father Conrado Avila Sr., a former mayor; and his mother Vella.

They said some of the others were education district supervisor Eduardo Jumidiao; San Isidro Central Elementary School principal Gloria Avila; municipal treasurer Gilda Bulalaque; municipal budget officer Fe O. Sola; and municipal election officer Juchita Collamar.

They also identified five LP candidates for the municipal council—Roldan Sabayo, Paul Montecalvo, Vito Vicario, Nardito Calipus and Arnel Castillo—and members of the local police, including SPO1 Roldan Collamar and SPO3 Manelito Lomocso, and of the municipal government.

LP gubernatorial candidate Raul Daza, and Harlin Abayon, candidate for the first congressional district in Northern Samar, allegedly arrived in the hall later but were not caught on camera because those in the building had gotten suspicious and started looking for the two PPC supporters.

Ong said about five more persons had witnessed the alleged rigging and were willing to testify in court. He said he had asked that they be put under government protection.

There are 60 precincts with 11,000 voters in San Isidro. Ong said the actual number of voters in the canvassing reached 14,000.

P15 million

Pimentel said a syndicate member approached a candidate of his PDP-Laban party even before the election campaign started.

The syndicate member supposedly told the candidate that for P15 million, he could "arrange the election results" in the latter's favor. The candidate rejected the offer.

"This incident tells me that this syndicate was looking for clientele without consideration of political party," Pimentel said.

The syndicate members are based in Manila and are former Comelec employees because they know Comelec processes, he said.

In a statement he later issued to the media, Pimentel said it was likely that the syndicate members were in cahoots with Comelec officials in the field.

Pimentel, a victim of *dagdag-bawas* in the 1995 senatorial election, offered to help the senatorial candidates of both the PPC and the Puwersa ng Masa in countering this form of electoral fraud.

He urged victims of cheating in the senatorial race to come forward and submit documented evidence to the Comelec and the Senate.

'Disinformation'

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao called on the opposition to stop airing baseless charges about electoral fraud.

He said there was no truth to the accusation that Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza was involved in irregularities, and described it as "disinformation."

"I will suggest to the opposition that any accusation should be backed by solid evidence, to cool down the political temperature at this time," Tiglao said.

But the PnM was undeterred and accused the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections of bias in favor of the PPC.

In a statement, PnM spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla said Namfrel had "taken (up) the cudgels (for) the PPC (regarding) charges of electoral fraud.

He also accused Namfrel of aiding the PPC in accusing the opposition of committing election irregularities.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion disclosed last week that it had uncovered *dagdag-bawas* in Estancia, Iloilo, that supposedly benefited opposition senatorial candidates.

But Remulla yesterday accused Concepcion of making this up.

Remulla said Concepcion "came out with his own version of alleged election anomalies" only after the PPC failed to explain the recent presence of Malacañang officials in Mindanao.

"It appears that Concepcion and (Namfrel secretary general Guillermo) Luz have totally lost sense of their organization's original task of providing the public a credible, possible outcome of the vote," Remulla said.

Remulla also said Concepcion had been demanding the resignation of Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco out of a "personal grudge."

He said Concepcion's threat to file an impeachment case against Tancangco "smacks of political coercion from an organization that owes its legality to the kindness of the poll body."

"Whatever his beef against Tancangco, he would be better off presenting his case at the proper forum and not through constant publicity and active politicking on behalf of the administration," Remulla said.

The PPC, in turn, said that "some operators" were trying to alter results of the senatorial election in Nueva Ecija.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he received the PPC's complaint yesterday afternoon, "less than an hour" before starting his news conference.

He said he had instructed Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño "to look into complaints from Nueva Ecija that some operators are moving for purposes of cheating in the elections, not on the local but on the national level."

He refused to elaborate except to say that he had also ordered prosecutors in Nueva Ecija to be on the alert for possible election cheating.

'Stick counts'

In Davao City, Namfrel said it had discovered hundreds of election returns containing discrepancies in figures indicated in the "stick counts" in the tally sheets, as against the total number of votes reflected in the election returns.

Lawyer Rene Alexis Villarente, Namfrel-Davao City spokesperson, said several groups of stick counts reflecting only three votes had been arranged and tallied in a way that would look like five votes.

He noted the discrepancies particularly in the stick-count tally in the party-list column of the sixth copy of the election returns reserved for Namfrel.

Villarente said Namfrel had asked certified public accountants to examine the election returns after observing the same discrepancies in several copies of the election returns.

He said the accountants noticed that seven of every 10 randomly selected election returns had the same discrepancies.

But Villarente said Namfrel could not conclude if the discrepancies were systematically done.

The PPC denied teaming up with alleged political warlords in Lanao del Norte to rig the elections, as alleged by the opposition.

"Let them file the charges. We are not engaged in any tricks anywhere," PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said.

Politicians in the area claimed that in one town—Sultan Naga Dimaporo—the number of votes exceeded by 3,000 the number of voters.

The town is said to be the bailiwick of former Gov. Ali Dimaporo, whose son Abdullah ("Bobby") is running as congressman of the second district of Lanao del Norte.

Bobby's wife Imelda is also running for governor of Lanao del Norte. Husband and wife are PPC candidates.

"It's an old tale. We have also accused the PnM of doing the same in Northern Samar. Votes there also exceeded the number of voters," said PPC national campaign director Paul Aquino. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Cathy C. Yamsuan, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Ronald James Panis in Manila; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Estrada house arrest still up to Sandigan

(From page A1)

Sandiganbayan."

In a separate briefing, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao quoted military and defense officials as assuring Malacañang that building the special quarters as well as a reception cottage for visitors would not be "so expensive."

"The cost is minimal compared to, not the convenience, but having this thing undertaken as soon as possible with the utmost security for a former president," Tiglao said, adding:

"The idea for a structure is to make things comfortable for all parties . . . and for Mr. Estrada to have some comfort. (This is) so that he won't have to be placed in a *bartolina* or an ordinary cell."

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said his office was not entirely against the plan.

"If the construction of an annex is for the purpose of putting up a jail under the supervision of the (Philippine National Police) or the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, then that would be legal," he said.

He said he would pose no objection "as long as the place will also be used by other persons with the same stature as Estrada, or at least close to it, who are under preventive detention for capital offenses."

But if this annex would be turned into a "residence or vacation house," he said, he would oppose it as it would be "objectionable legally."

Legal or not, the announced plan has drawn outrage from the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Alvin Luque, secretary general of Bayan-Davao City, said the plan was "inconceivable."

"The question now is, after building another house for Estrada, what's next? Is a deal not far behind?" Luque said.

In Lucena City, Bayan-Quezon chair Pedro Gonzales said: "One of the (calls) of Edsa II is Mr. Estrada's prosecution and eventual conviction. But with this plan, the President is inviting another protest mobilization across the country with her betrayal of those who brought her to power. May this serve as a warning."

Gonzales pointed out that "while Mr. Estrada is a former president, he is now also being charged with crimes unparalleled in the country's history."

"He is a criminal awaiting trial and, therefore, it is but proper that he be treated like the rest of the common prisoners in detention cells across the country," Gonzales said.

House arrest

The President told her disgraced predecessor during a visit Saturday that she was not opposed to his request to be put under house arrest, but that the decision was for the Sandigan to make.

Desierto said yesterday that he would vigorously oppose any move by Malacañang to allow Estrada's house arrest. He also cautioned Ms Macapagal against meddling in Estrada's prosecution.

"The Ombudsman's position is always based on the law. There is no law that allows house arrest for persons under preventive detention for a capital offense like plunder," Desierto said in an interview. "We will oppose it. We can't find it in the law books."

He also said that "while we respect the view of the Palace, it should not affect the administration of justice."

Perez said the Office of the Ombudsman, as Estrada's principal prosecutor, had the discretion whether to recommend house arrest for him.

"The control of the prosecution is in the hands of the Ombudsman, and it is the Ombudsman's position that shall prevail," he said.

Perez added that "constructing a house for Mr. Estrada is a prerogative of the President, but whether he will be allowed to use it would still depend on the Sandiganbayan."

He said that if the anti-graft court ruled that Estrada should be brought back to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, "so be it."

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. noted that in the event the Sandigan ordered Estrada's house arrest, the people might misinterpret this as "succumbing" to Ms Macapagal.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, aired a similar view, saying the President should "stay away" from statements such as what she aired Saturday.

"This is not the time for the executive department to make known its intentions in the resolution of the question of house arrest, (and) this could undermine the power of the court to decide on the issue," Biazon told reporters.

"Even discussing constructing a house (for Estrada at the VMMC compound) might have (this) effect," he added.

Still, Biazon commended the President for her second visit to Estrada. He said "this indicates her sincerity in effecting reconciliation with the opposition."

Estrada and his son Jinggoy are officially detained in Fort Sto. Domingo. They were airlifted to the VMMC shortly before the elections for health reasons.

Tiglao said yesterday that the PNP had recommended Estrada's confinement at the VMMC during his trial.

He said the PNP had cited three factors: security, the assurance that Estrada would be given immediate medical treatment if needed, and convenience.

'Motherhood statements'

The opposition welcomed the President's statement that she was not opposed to Estrada's house arrest, but challenged her to support her words with action.

It also welcomed her offer of reconciliation but demanded that she first make "apologies" to Estrada loyalists who attacked Malacañang on May 1, saying she had wrongly blamed them for the death of Manila policeman Rolando Abello.

"Well, they're good motherhood statements . Of course if she's really serious, the (Department of Justice) or the Ombudsman should file a manifestation with the Sandiganbayan (withdrawing objection to Estrada's house arrest). Her words should be backed up by action," said Puwersa ng Masa spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla, one of Estrada's closest allies.

Unlike the DOJ, the Office of the Ombudsman is a constitutional body that is independent from the executive branch.

Remulla said Ms Macapagal should silence those groups vigorously objecting to any special treatment for Estrada.

"We want to know if she can convince the others, because many people in her coalition are against it, like Bayan Muna," he said.

He sarcastically lauded Ms Macapagal's stated position on Estrada's house arrest, saying: "If I were her media handler I'd tell her to do the same."

JV Ejercito, Estrada's son by ex-starlet Guia Gomez, said there was "no sincerity" in the President's visits to his father.

"Obviously, what she's doing is for media consumption only. She just wants the people to think that she is a good and caring person," Ejercito said, adding:

"She keeps on telling my father that she has nothing to do with his case and that it is up to the courts to decide on his fate. But it is very clear that everything that's being done to my father is based on orders from high places."

Ejercito urged the government to show "genuine sincerity" by stopping the "harassment" of his family and allowing his father's house arrest. ***Reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan, Michael Lim Ubac, Martin P. Marfil, Christine Avendaño, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Agnes E. Donato in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Recto now No. 8 . . .

(From page A1)

move its operations from the gymnasium to the second floor of La Salle Greenhills.

Namfrel had completed 66 percent of the election returns.

In the Comelec tally, De Castro continued to lead the way. Juan Flavier was second.

Former First Lady Luisita Ejercito was in fourth place, followed by Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson.

Joker Arroyo came in seventh, followed by Recto and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Franklin Drilon was in 10th place; Sergio Osmeña III, 11th; Manuel Villar, 12th; and Francis Pangilinan keeping PPC's 8-4-1 lead by coming in 13th.

Within striking distance were Juan Ponce Enrile (14th) and Miriam Defensor-Santiago (15th).

Special elections

The Commission on Elections has scheduled special elections on May 26 and May 30 in Maguindanao, Palawan, Masbate, Albay, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte after a failure of elections was declared in these places.

On May 26, special elections will be held in Matanog, Maguindanao; a barangay in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte; four barangays in Marantao, Lanao del Sur; and two barangays in Balabac, Palawan.

On May 30, special elections will be held in eight barangays in Barira, Maguindanao; three barangays in Ninugan, Lanao del Norte; a barangay in Pio Duran, Albay; seven barangays in San Fernando, Masbate; and a barangay in Pio V. Corpus, Masbate.

Dagdag-bawas in Lipa

Recto's surge in the ranking was marred by an alleged *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) in his favor in Batangas.

PnM lawyer Rufus Rodriguez said Recto's total in the statement of votes (SOV) for Lipa City was padded by 9,810 votes. The wife of Recto, Vilma Santos, was reelected mayor of Lipa City.

Rodriguez pointed out the discrepancy when he compared the seventh copy of the COC in Lipa, which listed Recto with 46,105 votes, with the SOV from Lipa that already gave him 55,915 votes.

Rodriguez also noted that De Castro's total was reduced by 6,000 votes while those of Arroyo and Magsaysay were padded.

Rodriguez asked the NBC that the COCs from all the municipalities and cities of Batangas be produced before the canvassing could proceed.

But lawyer Romulo Makalintal, counsel of Osmeña and De Castro, argued that to do so might set a precedent and prompt opposition lawyers to demand the same for the COCs of all the municipalities and cities nationwide.

Rodriguez's motion was rejected by Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo, who also sits as NBC chair. He instead asked Rodriguez to file the appropriate petition so as not to disrupt the canvassing.

Last Namfrel count

Namfrel's ongoing quick count for the senatorial race maybe the last as the Comelec vowed to implement automated elections before the next national polls in 2004.

"There would be no need for Namfrel (quick count) if the elections are fully computerized," said Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion.

Concepcion said that Benipayo had assured him that the modernization of elections would be put in place by 2003.

He said that Benipayo also vowed to assume the chairmanship of the elections modernization committee from Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who failed to implement the law on electronic voting. *(See related story on Page A2).*

Tancangco said she was willing to relinquish the chairmanship of the modernization committee as long as Benipayo could give an assurance that it would be "to the advantage of the electoral system." ***With a report from Marie Carisa Ordinario***

Gloria vows . . .

(From page A1)

"Help me, heal our nation. Help me go to the slums in Metro Manila and do our healing there," she told the conference organized by the Development Advocacy of Women Volunteerism.

"Help me go to the Christian communities in Mindanao who feel that they have suffered through many years of conflict and therefore are afraid of peace. Help me to show them that peace is also for their good."

Exit polls and unofficial counts of the May 14 votes show the poorest sectors of the electorate as well as Christian communities in Mindanao voted overwhelmingly for the senatorial candidates of ousted leader Joseph Estrada.

Thousands of Estrada's supporters, mainly from the urban poor, joined the so-called "Edsa Tres" to protest his arrest in late April and rioted outside Malacañang on May 1.

The Christian majority in Mindanao, who supported Estrada's all-out war against Moro separatist rebels, are suspicious of Ms Macapagal's peace initiatives with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Formal peace talks are expected to start next month.

"So much work has to be done by the government but work can be made much easier with a core of volunteers like you. Help me heal the nation," Ms Macapagal told the conference.

Policy shift

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that Ms Macapagal was expected to unveil in today's Cabinet meeting a package of high-impact projects for the poor.

Tiglao said funding for the projects would also be discussed in the meeting.

He said the projects would first be initiated in Metro Manila in the form of housing for the urban poor, access to potable water in their communities and scholarships for needy children.

"The projects are aimed at making sure that conditions of the poor are alleviated as soon as possible," Tiglao told a Palace press briefing.

"It's a response to everything that has happened . . . the rage demonstrated by the urban poor, the election results in some urban poor areas and the realization that there is such a big economic, political and cultural gap between the upper class and the poor."

Tiglao said agencies that had been relegated to the background, like the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the Department of Social Work and Development, would now be at the frontline.

He said Ms Macapagal had been making the rounds of urban poor communities the past weeks, adding she has even "touched base" with the pro-Estrada People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP).

Davao bishop

Bishop Felixberto Calang of the Philippine Independent Church, however, said Ms Macapagal would do well to start the healing process by abandoning her plan to build a new jailhouse for Estrada.

"Healing will never happen without justice. Building a special annex for Estrada is an insult and an injustice to the nation he had plundered," Calang said.

"Houses should be built for the poor not for Estrada," he added.

Calang said Ms Macapagal should also show political will in implementing radical measures, like agrarian reform, in bridging the wide gap between the rich and the poor. ***With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Name it Erap has it: bronchitis, arthritis . .

(From page A1)

12. Estrada had complained of cough and fever, Jinggoy of a stomach ache.

Dr. Salvador Flores, VMMC director, and Dr. Liberato Casison, head of the VMMC Department of Medicine, said in their report that the 64-year-old Estrada had "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease secondary to chronic bronchitis and emphysema with probable bacterial infection."

This means that chronic bronchitis and emphysema, two related diseases, are causing an obstruction of air going in and out of the lungs. Chronic bronchitis is clinically defined as a daily cough with production of sputum, and this is caused by a swelling of the lining of the airways that lead to their narrowing and obstruction. Emphysema is strongly associated with cigarette smoking.

The doctors said that when Estrada was transferred to the VMMC on May 12 supposedly because of fever and nonproductive cough, he was "no longer febrile" (feverish). He was coughing every now and then but without expectoration, the report said.

The doctors conducted several tests and found that Estrada had "chronic bronchitis with localized emphysema of both upper lobes" and had osteoarthritis (degenerative arthritis) and minimal osteoporosis (thinning of the bones) in both knees.

Estrada underwent minor surgery in January 1998 and again, reportedly, in July 1998 for his arthritic knees.

The VMMC doctors recommended an antibiotic regimen and nebulization, and breathing exercises for his lung ailment and physiotherapy for his arthritis. He will also have to undergo more tests.

Jinggoy

Jinggoy, on the other hand, was transferred from Sta. Rosa because he was supposedly suffering from abdominal discomfort. Upon arrival at the VMMC, however, he claimed that his abdominal pain was gone.

Doctors did a blood count, chemistry tests and liver function tests. An electrocardiogram (ECG) showed he had "lateral wall ischemia" but he was not complaining of any "typical angina or angina equivalent symptoms."

Angina is chest pain caused by inadequate supply of oxygen to the heart muscle.

But doctors said that because of the "present and future implications of this cardiac finding," they would do more "ancillary" tests, namely ECG and stress tests, or a "combined stress-echo examination or any other cardiac diagnostic procedure" to find out more about the abnormality revealed in Jinggoy's ECG. The tests will be done in a period of two weeks.

Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza also submitted a written explanation to the anti-graft court's third division why the PNP could not yet return the former President and his son to Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna.

Estrada and Jinggoy were allowed by the Sandiganbayan to vote in the May 14 elections.

"Doing so is beyond (the PNP's) control as the PNP medical doctors found former President Estrada suffering from acute arthritis and severe coughing, and accused Mayor Estrada from vomiting and abdominal pains," Mendoza said.

He said the PNP could only bring the Estradas back to Sta. Rosa upon an official receipt from the VMMC that they were "already physically fit." ***With report from AP***

Heavy losses forced SSS to borrow ₱7.4B last year

(From page A1)

cials, including Arellano, allegedly behind the fund misuse.

To obtain the loans, Arellano assigned "government or private securities owned by the SSS as collateral to aforesaid transactions."

But in its March 31, 2001 financial statement, the SSS reported that the short-term loans were "fully paid as of March 31, 2001."

The report, however, failed to mention that the interest payments on the short-term loans totaled nearly P1 billion, representing "nearly P1 billion in additional losses to the SSS."

"Millions of pesos in SSS funds from its contributors were used to settle the account and the subsequent interest payments," noted a top SSS official.

The new SSS management admitted last month that the pension fund lost P8 billion from its P50-billion investment in publicly listed stocks last year.

Also last year, the SSS experienced a P3.5-billion "negative position" because actual benefits extended to members exceeded contributions.

SSS members are assured of benefits in case of sickness, pregnancy, injury death, retirement and loss of income or work-related disability. They can also avail themselves of salary, calamity, emergency as well as housing loans.

To help ensure the financial viability of the SSS, Malacañang proposed last month that monthly contributions to the pension fund be raised gradually starting this year. But opposition to the proposal forced Malacañang to scuttle its plan.

In its Dec. 31, 2000 financial report, the SSS said its short-term loans were obtained only from Landbank and First Metro. Philhealth was added to the "notes payable" list in the March 31, 2001 financial statement.

The official did not fully explain how the SSS was able to repay a debt of about P8.4 billion, including interests, in just 14 months.

In its 2000 income statement, SSS members' contributions reached P30.3 billion, an increase of P3.13 billion over the previous year's total.

Total revenues amounted to P42.4 billion, a decrease of P3.5 billion, while net revenues amounted to P3.97 billion, a 70.3-percent reduction from the 1999 total of P13.4 billion.

Last year, 28 percent of SSS investments were locked in the stocks of 24 corporations, including Empire East Land Holdings, Megaworld Corp., 'Urban Bank, Pryce Corp., DMCI and Alliance Global Group. Most of these are involved in property development.

Gaming and property firm

The Ombudsman is looking into reports that the SSS lost close to P150 million when it bought 149 million shares of the controversial gaming and property firm, Belle Corp., in December 1998 at P3.10 per share when it was trading at only P2.10 per share in the stock market.

From 1998 to 1999, the SSS increased its fund allocation from P150 million to P1.3 billion to buy Belle shares.

In March 2000, the SSS held a total of 476.1 million Belle shares with an "average acquisition cost of P0.69 per share versus a closing price of P0.59 or an unrealized loss of P47.6 million."

Arellano had told government investigators that in 1999 the SSS was forced to invest nearly P745 million in Belle Corp. due to "repeated pressure" from then President Joseph Estrada.

Arellano, Estrada's childhood friend and schoolmate, was named SSS head in January 1998. He resigned after then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency in January 2001.

In a February sworn statement, Arellano disclosed that the SSS acquired on Oct. 21, 1999 "a total volume of 329 million (Belle) shares with a gross value of P744,612,450."

But according to SSS documents the SSS started buying Belle shares as early as Dec. 2, 1998.

Between Dec. 2 and 9, 1998, the SSS bought a total of 149.3 million Belle shares, "139.7 million shares of which were orders by Arellano at an average price of P2.10 per share and the rest by Assistant Vice President Rizaldy Capulong (of the Securities and Trading Management Department) at an average price of P1.92."

Arellano later sold'5.85 million shares at P2.19 per share while Capulong sold 19.5 million shares at an average price of P2.03.

Belle Corp.

On Nov. 17, 1998, Capulong "through SSS senior vice president for investments Edgar Solilapsi recommended to purchase common shares of Belle Corp. and provide a maximum investment allocation of P450 million."

A week later, the SSS issued a resolution approving the proposal. On Feb. 9, 1999, Capulong recommended increasing Belle's investment allocation to P700 million.

On March 8, 1999, Capulong again recommended increasing the allocation to P850 million which eventually reached P1.3 billion on Sept. 28, 1999.

The SSS also extended a P375-million loan to Belle Corp., allegedly on orders of Estrada. The loan was guaranteed by real estate mortgages on the private company's real estate properties, including parcels of land in the Tagaytay Highlands, as well as club and golf shares.

In an affidavit, Willy Ocier, a close associate of Estrada, had claimed that Estrada earned at least P189.7 million in commissions from the sale of Belle shares to the SSS.

Documents submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman showed that in 1999 alone, the SSS and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) disbursed a total of P1.8 billion for investment in Belle Corp., which was then financially troubled.

In exchange for the investments, the gaming firm paid commissions amounting to nearly P190 million that allegedly ended up in the so-called "Jose Velarde account" with the Equitable PCI Bank.

The account belonged to Estrada, officials of the private bank had disclosed. But the former President denied the allegation.

Surprise . . .

(From page A1)

Power Coalition.

And Noli de Castro smells something fishy.

"*Nadali tayo doon* (They placed one over us there)," he told the INQUIRER.

The ABS-CBN TV anchor expressed surprise that he only placed No. 14 when he was certain that the TV network's signal is strong even in Batanes, the country's remotest point in the north.

But PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco was not surprised. The people in Batanes are a "discerning" lot, he said.

The 8,000 voters, the local Ivatans, humbled the emerging sensation of Philippine politics, who is a creation of radio and television.

"It may be that I'm not that strong there, but I cannot see the possibility that I would not make it to the Magic 13," De Castro said in Filipino.

"Noli was clearly outshone by another star there—Butch Abad," Limcaoco said, offering still another reason for the junking of De Castro.

According Limcaoco, reelectionist Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad is adored by people in Batanes for his honesty, competence and credibility in public service.

The Macapagal administration's campaign for a 13-0 sweep for the PPC only materialized in Batanes "due to Abad's leadership," Limcaoco told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Abad, secretary general of the Liberal Party, was agrarian reform secretary during the Aquino administration.

Clean sweep

Limcaoco said Abad accomplished what the PPC failed to do in their other bailiwicks, including Cebu where the result was 12-1 in favor of the PPC; Pangasinan, 12-1; and Bicol, 11-2.

On May 16, 2001, Abad sent Limcaoco a note saying that "the LP-PPC delivered a 13-0 sweep for our PPC Senate slate."

"We also swept the local elections from congressman down," Abad added.

He furnished Limcaoco the results of the elections showing De Castro at 14.

Citing vote-counting results of the Commission on Elections in Batanes, Abad said Manuel Villar emerged No. 1, followed by Joker Arroyo, Juan Flavier, Franklin Drilon, and Ralph Recto.

Although De Castro admitted he did not campaign in Batanes and did not field his own poll watchers, he said television would have still made him popular in the area.

But De Castro made it clear that he was not complaining. Neither did he harbor any ill feelings toward the Ivatans.

"I'm not complaining, but I'm just expressing my surprise that this happened," he said, adding that people who wanted to "grandstand" may be behind the alleged caper.

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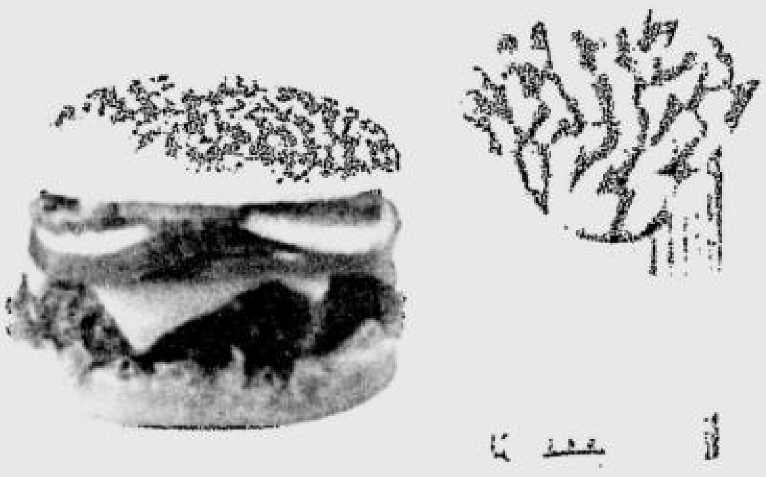

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EAGLE KEYS VICTORY

Tiger drama marches on

Riviera ladies nip Canlubang

RIVIERA ruled two of the three divisions in a stirring performance as host of the second leg of the Callaway-sponsored second leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines annual Circuit recently.

Riviera drew strength from Natalie Yu and Lora Roberto, who combined for 85 points in ruling Class A by a mere point over Canlubang with 154 points for four players.

Monina Sato and Beng Ibo provided their share of the close triumph with 37 and 32, respectively.

Highly favored Canlubang got 46 points from Carmelette Villaroman but the rest of her teammates failed to respond. First leg winner Sta. Elena could only place third in Class A.

Riviera's Class B team made up of Rose Guerrero, Bernadette Jalosjos, Cynthia Alejangco and Suzumi Watanabe pulled off an eight-point win over Navy.

Navy, however, prevented a Riviera sweep by topping Class C of the event, which marked the entry of market leader Callaway as a major backer of WGAP.

Winning it for Navy were Mayeth Chan, Glo Domingo, Raquel Banawa and Julie Cabasa. With their 157 points, they wound up tied with the Rivierans but prevailed in a countback.

Villaroman led the individual winners by winning Class A while Beth Menchavez of Navy took Class B with her 43 and Jovy Matsumoto topped Class C with her 47.

The series moves on to Villamor on June 4 for the third leg.

Summer Camp at Puerto Azul

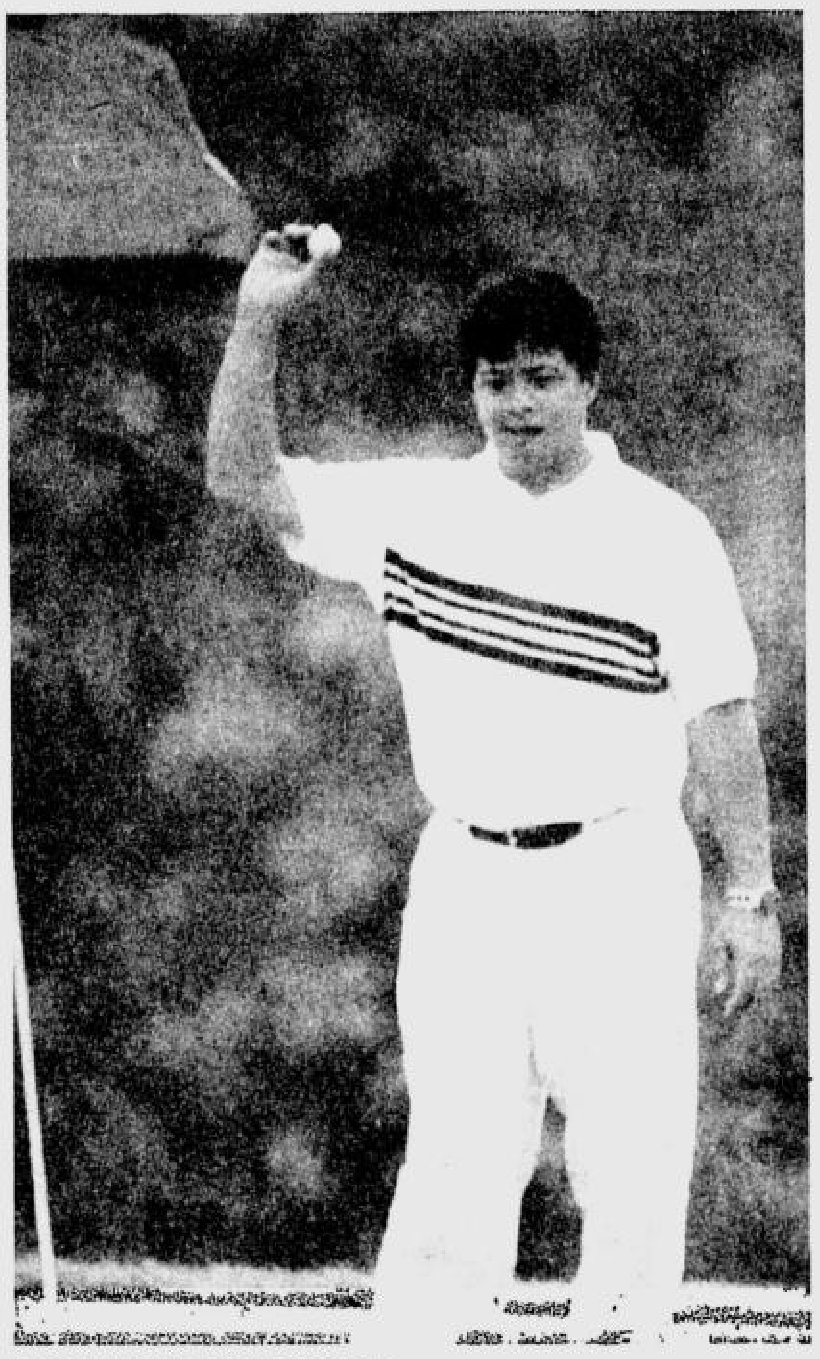
TERNATE, Cavite—The three day Milo-Philippine Junior Golf Federation Summer Camp will start today at the Puerto Azul Beach and Country Club, PJGF president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada said yesterday.

"On behalf of the PJGF, I would like to thank Milo for the generous sponsorship of the summer camp, which we are doing at Puerto Azul in memory of one of the biggest benefactors of junior golf—Dr. Rebecco Panlilio," said Cantada.

Cantada will conduct the summer camp while his son Gerard, who just turned pro, will conduct clinics.

In his clinics, the younger Cantada will use his V1 Digital Coaching System, the latest computer aid in the United States used by top teaching professionals.

As in previous events, the players will be protected by the federation's lightning prediction system called Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System.



DOUBLE-EAGLE SCORER

Alexis "Bong" Sison displays the ball he used in scoring a double-eagle, considered as golf's rarest shot also known as the Albatross, on No. 4 of the Dye course of the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite during the recent Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit. He was given a Titleist 975D driver for the feat. The circuit resumes today at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands courses.

WOODS

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Until the crowd roared Sunday, Tiger Woods didn't even know the dramatic shot that propelled him toward the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open yesterday had dropped into the hole.

Woods ended a daylong duel with New Zealand's Michael Campbell and pulled two strokes clear by pitching straight into the hole from 158 meters (175 yards) for an eagle on 13th.

"I didn't know if it went over the green or into the hole, then I heard the roar," said Woods, who clapped the hands of caddy Steve Williams in joy when he'd learned the fate of the shot.

Woods finished with a four-stroke victory at 22-under 266, winning the tournament for the second time in three years. He had a final day 6-under 66 while Campbell settled for a 70 and 18-under 270.

Woods and Campbell, a 32-year-old Maori and rising star on the European tour, traded the lead several times until the eagle at the short 362-meter (396-yard) par-4 hole.

Woods has won four titles in his last five events, including the historic Masters which completed his sweep of the majors. He now also won 12 of the 24 events he's played that count toward the European money title. Though he doesn't play on the European tour, the victory also pushed him to No. 3 on the all-time money list, passing former Masters champion Ian Woosnam. *AP*

Garcia prevails

FORT WORTH, Texas – Sergio Garcia's first PGA Tour victory was a long time coming, even though he is only 21.Garcia, tagged as the European version of Tiger Woods in 1999 after a 62 in his first PGA Tour round as a pro and as runner-up in the PGA Championship, finally got his first win Sunday with a closing 7-under-par 63 at the Colonial. *AP*

Doolan wins

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio—Wendy Doolan slid in a 1.8-meter (6-foot) birdie putt on the fifth playoff hole Sunday to beat Wendy Ward and win the rain-shortened LPGA Champions Classic. *AP*

It's Dougherty

KANSAS CITY, Missouri— Ed Dougherty, with only one victory in 94 previous senior tournaments, had a 66 Sunday and won the TD Waterhouse Championship with a three-day total of a record-tying 22-under-par for 54 holes. *AP*

Joecal, 65

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU win with two eagles in a last round 66, how will you describe that?

Spectacular.

You are down 8 shots in Round 1 and 5 in Round 2, but still manage to trim the deficit down to a measly stroke with a 63 in Round 3, who are you?

Tiger Woods.

Five victories in his last six starts of the season. Gosh! I'm running out of words to describe the Tiger Woods phenomenon—if I haven't yet.

Will anyone come forward and counsel me on how to treat his succeeding feats?

Even Jack Nicklaus, the golfer of the century with 18 majors to his name, has said: "At the rate he is going, he'll break my record in no time."

Tell me, who can stop this 24-year-old phenom?

Only God can.

■

For all his talent, Allen Iverson also needed luck to preserve the gleam of his MVP trophy.

Iverson's luck came in the form of a missed shot at the buzzer by Vince Carter, his nemesis. Had Carter's fadeaway from some 20 feet connected, Toronto would have been the winner. By a point.

Thus, as fate would have it, Iverson and Philadelphia escaped with an 88-87 victory to advance to the Eastern Finals against Milwaukee.

Carter's bungled attempt recalled to mind Michael Jordan's similar shot in 1998 against Utah. Jordan's shot—his last after 13 NBA seasons—connected, giving Chicago its sixth NBA crown in the Nineties.

The odds now say that Iverson and the Sixers will beat the Milwaukee Bucks (their series begins on May 23), thus paving the way for a much-anticipated NBA Finals between Los Angeles and Philadelpia.

If that should happen, who will you root for, Iverson and his Sixers or Kobe Bryant and his Lakers?

Your guess is as good as mine.

■

"Life," sang the Beatles, "is very short."

Only last March, sportswriters, photographers and close friends treated Joe Miraflor to a dinner-party in Cebu City during a break of the PAL Interclub Golf Championship. It was his birthday and they wanted a special affair for Joe, who would retire in two weeks after having worked with PAL for 33 years.

"But even as Joe is due to retire," said PAL's Rollie Estabillo in his speech, "I'll see to it that he will be with us every year as special guest of the PAL Interclub."

For almost three decades, Joe was Rollie's man for the media covering the PAL Interclub.

In that party in Cebu, Joe—fondly called Joecal for his bald pate—received a box of shampoo, conditioner and hair brushes. All done in jest. And Joecal loved it.

"I will never forget this for as long as I live," he said. "I love you all."

Joecal succumbed to heart attack on May 19. He was 65. His body lies at Prudential Funeral Parlor at Dapitan St., corner Maceda, Sampaloc, Manila.

PharmaQuick tries to boost semis bid

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Shark	9	1
Welcoat	6	3
Ana	6	3
GIV	5	4
Group B		
PharmaQuick	6	4
Hapee	5	5
Montaña	2	7
Ateneo	2	7
Osaka	0	8

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
PYBL
9:00 a.m.—Whiz vs National University
10:45 a.m.—Assumption vs Spring Oil
12:30 p.m.—Boysen-MLQU vs Gringo-Konica
Chairman's Cup
3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Ateneo-Pioneer
5:30 p.m.—PharmaQuick vs Osaka

By Dennis Eroa

GROUP B leader PharmaQuick aims to boost its semifinal hopes as it battles winless Osaka Iridology today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

A victory will move the Pharmacists (6-4) one win away from forcing a playoff against the Group A fourth placer for a semifinal slot. Gametime is at 3:30 p.m.

In the first game at 3:30 p.m., Montaña meets Ateneo-Pioneer.

Leonides Avenido, a prized-find from FEU, and prolific Bruce Dacia are making things happen for the Sandy Javier-owned PharmaQuick. Also giving reliable support are playmaker Chico Lanete, Jay Lapinid and Jun Jabar.

"Osaka is a tough foe," said PharmaQuick coach Bernie Fabiosa. The Pharmacists edged the Iridologists, 88-85, in the eliminations.

In the PYBL, defending champion Boysen-MLQU seeks to regain its winning form when it battles Gringo-Konica at 12:30 p.m. The bemedalled Paintmasters are sporting a 2-3 card.

University of Assumption seeks a share of the lead with University of the Philippines (5-1) when it collides with Spring Cooking Oil at 10:45 a.m.

Hawks dump Stags

UNIVERSITY of Manila dumped San Sebastian College, 97-73, yesterday to stay on track in the 1st Sen. Ambrosio-Padilla Memorial Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

It was the third victory in four outings for the Hawks, who pulled away only in the second half when Rudolf Eilenger and Louie Aquino found their marks.

Tiny wants neutral venue

QUINTELIANO "Tiny" Literal yesterday said he would only appear in the Basketball Association of the Philippines' elections on June 7 once the Philippine Olympic Committee sets the exercise on a neutral venue.

Acting BAP president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat earlier announced that the venue of the elections would be in his turf, at the penthouse of the Manila Bank building in Makati City.

MBA First Phase: Survival of the fittest

IT will be survival of the fittest for the First Phase of the Metropolitan Basketball Association starting on June 3 this season.

The Southern Conference teams and their counterparts from the Northern Conference mix it up right away, with the three worst performers after the double round-robin eliminations heading to the exits.

Conference rivalry, however, will be highlighted in the inaugurals as reigning national titlist Andok's San Juan and LBC Batangas collide at 3 p.m. at the San Juan Gym after a one-hour opening ceremony

The second game featuring traditional rivals Negros and Cebuana Lhuillier will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

FedEx Laguna makes it debut against LBC Batangas at 5:30 p.m. on June 6, following the 3 p.m. encounter between Nueva Ecija and San Juan. Both games are set at the San Luis Sports Complex.

Socsargen and Davao see action only on June 8, when action shifts to the Rizal Memorial Colleges Gym, Socsargen meets Cebuana Lhuillier at 3 p.m. while Davao faces Negros at 5:30 p.m.

Tournament format also calls for the fourth-ranked and the fifth-placed teams to knock each other out on Aug. 8, with the winner advancing to the semifinals.

The best-of-three semifinals pit the top qualifier against the quarterfinal survivor and the No. 2 placer against the No. 3 finisher in a similar series

RP cagers resume training

By Roy Luarca

THE PHILIPPINE men's team has never let up on its training for the Asian Basketball Confederation championship in Shanghai, China, in July.

Coach Boyzie Zamar told the INQUIRER yesterday that Manila-based national players, all of whom came from the Metropolitan Basketball Association, have been attending the daily scrimmages at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Players from the provinces, particularly Negros' John Ferriols and Ruben dela Rosa and Cebu's Homer Se and Stephen Padilla, join the practices whenever they are around.

"The Nationals have become so close that they might hesitate to play against each other when the MBA opens on June 3," said Zamar. "The camaraderie is already there."

The Nationals swept the Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship in April to earn the right with runner-up Thailand to represent the region in the ABC.

Four-time ABC All-Star and SEABA MVP Romel Adducul of LBC Batangas is the team skipper.

Other members are San Juan's Omanzie Rodriguez, Chito Victolero and Chris Calaguio, named best player of the SEABA final; Egay Echavez of Socsargen, Junel Mendiola of FedEX Laguna and LBC Batangas' Eddie Laure and Peter Martin.

Red Lions roar

SAN BEDA turned back NCAA champion College of St. Benilde, 77-69, yesterday at the FEU gym to assume solo senior leadership in the 7thFr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament.

With Aljun Cordero, Arnold Oliveros and Jet Bombeo scoring in double figures, the Red Lions overhauled a 33-44 halftime deficit to score their fifth straight win in the cagefest

CHAMP, AT LAST AP

Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic kisses her trophy after besting France's Amelie Mauresmo, 7-6 (3), 6-1, in the final of the women's Italian Tennis Open in Rome on Sunday. In Germany, Alberto Portas beat Juan Carlos Ferrero, 4-6, 6-2,0-6,7-6 (5), 7-5, for the Hamburg Masters title.

Glory derby starts tonight

MORE than 40 quality fights are lined up tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum as the 12th Ucap/PB Sagupaan San Pablo Guts and Glory 6-Cock Derby begins at 7. Derby hosts are Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino, Alex Tang and Wakee Salud.

Starwars Sagupaan of partners Tony Litonjua and Patrick Antonio is way ahead in the race with 50.5 points and is already assured of bagging the Cocker of the Year 2000-2001 award.

Attention will be focused on BJ Greenwood I of UCAP president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos and EGT Stingers of Esting Teopaco, currently tied for second place with 43 points each and are battling neck and neck for runner-up honors.

Still in contention for runner-up honors are Jet Fernando and Ramon Mencenares (San Pedro GP Eagle, 39.5), engineer Sonny Lagon (JBB Blue Blade Balbina) and Pete Rodriguez (Roadmaster Cobra Balbina) both with 38.5 points.

SPORTSWATCH

Deuel foils Amang

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Corey Deuel defeated Jose "Amang" Parica, 7-5, in the men's finals of the Billiards Congress of America (BCA) Open 9-Ball Championships Sunday and spoiled the latter's bid to become the third player from the Philippines to win a tile in the 2001 US pro billiards tour. The win was worth $15,000 for Deuel, a young American star fancied to be the potential successor of multi-titled Earl Strickland. Parica, a former protégé of Manila sportsmen Jose G. Puyat and Aristeo G. Puyat, settled for the second place prize of $7,500.

Abadia advances

LOLITO Abadia and Aldrin Geluz posted hard-earned victories yesterday to gain second-round berths in the P120,000 TMS Shipping Agency National Open Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Lolito, younger brother of former RP Davis Cupper Adelo, defeated Royce Bunag, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1, to advance against Govind Daswani, while Geluz conquered Luiz Beunbrazo, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, to advance against Gilbert Estrada. Other winners were Joseph Arcilla over Nico Riego de Dios, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0; Pius Ocampo over Yannick Guba, 6-2, 6-1; Jefferson Lee over Lawrence Magaway, 6-4, 6-2; Elberto Anasta over Joel Locsin, 6-0, 6-3; and Carlo Manalastas over Jandrick de Castro, 6-4, 6-2.

Badminton returns

BADMINTON action returns to the mall in June with the staging of the JVC Open Badminton Championships. National athletes, aspiring nationals, enthusiasts and those who are almost past their prime but are still hooked on the sport will vie for cash prizes in the tournament sponsored by JVC in cooperation with IMG Manila. The tournament will reel off June 11 to 13 at the Badminton Hall inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila, with the qualifying rounds in three divisions—elite, youth and veterans. Deadline for registration is 3 p.m. of May 26.

RP triathletes reap 2 gold medals in Sabah

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH–Age-groupers carried the day for the Philippine contingent when they reaped two gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the 14-nation 10th Asian Triathlon Championship at Nexus Resort Karumbai here Sunday.

Alvin Alindogan flashed the form that made him Asia's most outstanding masters triathlete in 1997, to claim the gold medal in the 40-44 years category. Alindogan of San Pedro, Laguna, never looked back after getting out of the water first and covered the 1.5 kilometer swim, 40 km bike and 10 Km run under sweltering heat in 2 hours, 25 minutes and 14 seconds.

Cebu City's Abet Biagan celebrated his maiden appearance in an international tilt with a gold medal performance in the 25-29 years, clocking 2:25:24. Mauro Gonzales, Alindogan's townmate who is more adept at handling the butcher's knife than his bicycle gear shift, settled for the 35-39 years silver after faltering in the run leg.

Raul Cuevas, the country's known Ironman and organizer of the Philippine Half-Ironman event, checked in 3 minutes and 18 seconds behind Biagan to beat Chris Aldeguer, another Filipino, for the bronze.

"I'm satisfied by the overall performance of our triathletes. It should serve as an inspiration to the local triathletes seeing action in the June 3 Subic Bay International Triathlon," said Tom Carrasco, TRAP president.

Pamorca leads charge of motocross youth brigade

JORDAN, GUIMARAS—Little-known Wynsor Pamorca led the charge of the youth brigade, posting an impressive victory in the fourth leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Guimaras and WG&A before a big crowd at the Guimaras Sports Complex here Sunday.

Pamorca, the 18-year-old campaigner from Dumaguete City, dominated the beginner local enduro in this annual series organized by the Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and sponsored by WG&A Super Ferry, Bench, PLDT, Smart Zed, Agua Vida, Dreambikes Superstore, Access Plus and Transtainer System.

Pamorca defeated Eric Miravalles, Joseph Tuvilla, Dexter Bacabac and Melvin Cordova in the race also backed by MAD and Kids Foundation and supported by Guimaras Provincial Government, headed by Gov. R.C. Rahruan Nava and Jordan Mayor Felipe Nava.

Gov. Nava personally awarded the trophies and cash prizes to the winners, assisted by Hartebeest project manager Marilen Nunez. Mayor Nava, on the other hand, flagged off the participants in the day-long event held as part of the annual "Manggahan Festival."

Pamorca also finished third overall in the beginner Enduro B behind Cordova and Tuvilla.

Gomez, Paragua prevail

NATIONAL Juniors titlist John Paul Gomez and IM Mark Paragua shared the limelight yesterday by beating their respective rivals in the third round of the National Age Group Chess championships held in Mandaluyong City. Gomez downed Nelman Lagutin in 49 moves of a French Defense, while Paragua defeated Garry Garcia in 36 moves of a Sicilian Defense.

SPORTS

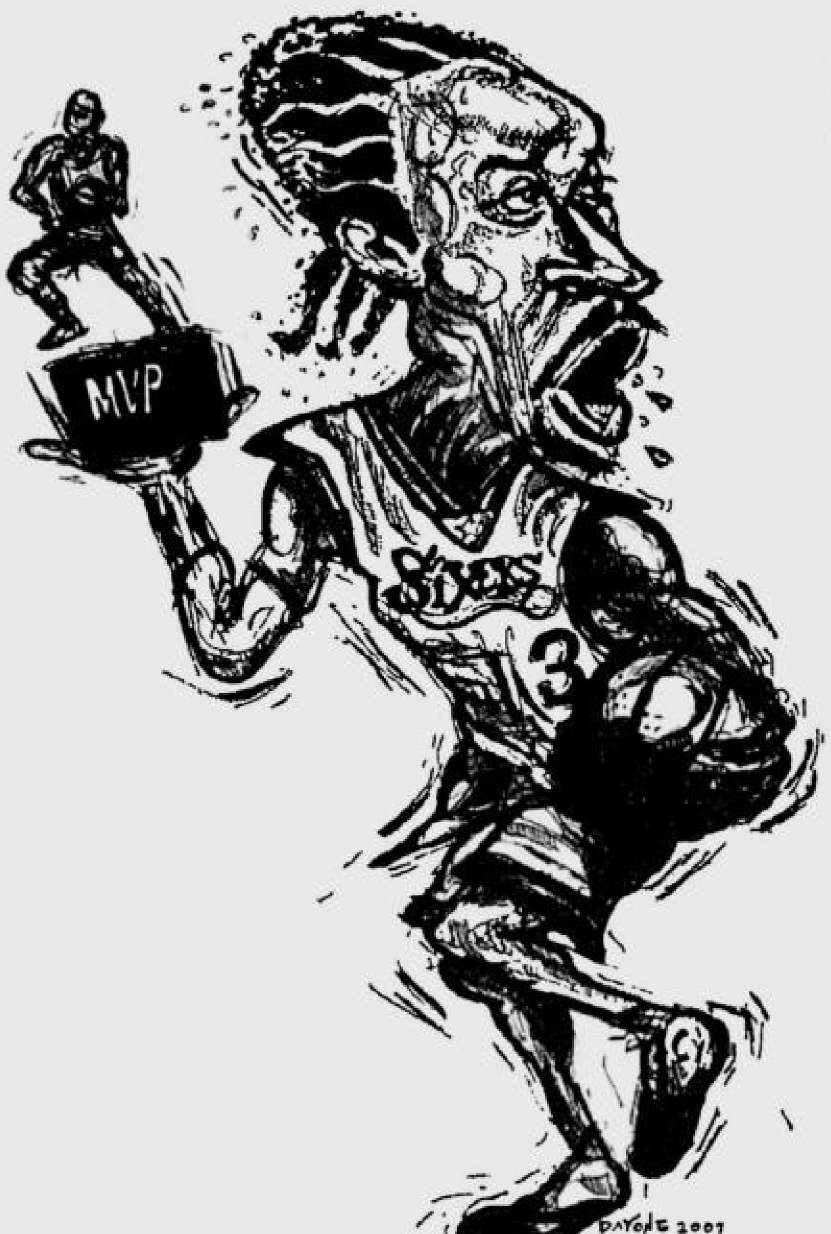
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Judoka bags Arafura gold

DARWIN, Australia—Judoka Palo Tancontian gave the Philippines its first gold medal of the 2001 Arafura Games here on Sunday. The 24-year old national team mainstay from Davao City beat hometown hero Sean Conway of the Northern Territory in the finals to rule the men's 81-kg division in front of a cheering sizeable Filipino crowd who packed the Darwin High School Gym here.

NBA PLAYOFFS

76ers, Bucks arrange East finals



IVERSON: "For the first time in my life, I'm on a team. It doesn't get no better." ILLUSTRATION/DAYONG J. MENDOZA

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania— Allen Iverson and Aaron McKie adopted new roles to deny a determined Toronto defense and the Philadelphia 76ers advanced to the NBA semifinals.

McKie came off the bench to score 22 points and NBA scoring champion Iverson contributed 21 points and a career-high 16 assists as the 76ers defeated the Raptors 88-87 in a playoff showdown thriller here Sunday.

"That says we're a team," Iverson said. "For the first time in my life, I'm on a team. It doesn't get no better."

A potential series-winning shot at the final buzzer by Toronto's Vince Carter clanged off the back of the rim, ending a tension-packed drama that saw the 76ers set up an Eastern Conference finals date with Milwaukee.

"I had the opportunity and it just didn't fall," Carter said. "It's something you live for. Maybe next year."

Glenn Robinson scored 29 points and Ray Allen added 28 as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated visiting Charlotte 103-95 as both triumphant clubs were pushed the distance to win their best-of-seven NBA quarterfinal series.

The Eastern Conference champion will face either the reigning champion Los Angeles Lakers or 1999 NBA winner San Antonio in the NBA Finals. The Lakers lead that best-of-seven matchup 1-0.

The 76ers will start their series against the Bucks at home on Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila).

Philadelphia's last-minute drama started when McKie, voted the top reserve player in the league with the NBA's Sixth Man Award, put the 76ers ahead 88-82 with 2:54 remaining.

But the Raptors fought back. Alvin Williams blocked an Iverson shot to set up Dell Curry's three-point basket, which pulled the Raptors within the final margin with 55 seconds remaining.

NBA Most Valuable Player Iverson, who went 8-of-27 from the field, missed but McKie rebounded and gave the 76ers a chance to run more time off the clock.

When Eric Snow missed and Toronto's Antonio Davis got the ball and called timeout, only 3.6 seconds remained.

Davis, who led the Raptors with 23 points, moved the ball upcourt and lost precious seconds in doing so before stopping the clock, after which Toronto would have taken possession at midcourt anyway.

Philadelphia, which has not been so near a title since 1985, was able to foul once without sending Toronto to the free throw line and McKie fouled Carter, trimming the time to two seconds.

Carter, who finished with 20 points, took an inbounds pass and fired over defender Tyrone Hill. The ball clanked off the rim and the East's top seed survived a scare.

"My teammates, they just kept fighting," Iverson said. "I struggled all game and they kept coming through me."

Once considered a ballhog, Iverson won his duel of rising young stars with Carter by showing he is mature enough to pass the ball when he must.

"The thing that I'm proud of is he's learning how to play," 76ers coach Larry Brown said. "He wants to win so badly. He's such an unbelievable competitor. I said it all along, I'm learning a lot about him. He had 16 assists in a big game. That is a monumental achievement for him."

Carter attended his college graduation commencement ceremonies at the University of North Carolina earlier in the day and arrived here by private jet plane, perhaps sapping just enough energy to cost him dearly as the Raptors suffered their first loss in their fourth do-or-die playoff game. *AP*

SEMIFINALS SKED

(Manila time)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
(Lakers vs Spurs)
Game 1 – May 20, Lakers 104, Spurs 90
Game 2 – May 22, Tues., at San Antonio, 8:30 a.m.
Game 3 – May 26, Sat., at L.A., 9 a.m.
Game 4 – May 28, Mon., at L.A., 5:30 a.m.
*Game 5 – May 30, Wed., at San Antonio, 9 a.m.
*Game 6 - June 2, Sat., at L.A.
*Game 7 – June 4, Mon, at San Antonio

EASTERN CONFERENCE
(76ers vs Bucks)
Game 1 – May 23, Wed., at Philadelphia, 8:30 a.m.
Game 2 – May 25, Fri., at Philadelphia, 8:30 a.m.
Game 3 – May 27, Sun, at Milwaukee, 5:30 a.m.
Game 4 – May 29, Tue, at Milwaukee, 5:30 a.m.
*Game 5 – June 1, Thurs., at Philadelphia, 9 a.m.
*Game 6 – June 2, Sat., at Milwaukee
*Game 7 – June 4, Mon, at Philadelphia
*if necessary

Nobody can fill Jordan's shoes—Kobe

SAN ANTONIO—The San Antonio Spurs are 0-17 in playoff series when they lose the first game.

To end that ominous trend, they will have to overcome the Los Angeles Lakers at their best, a team that has Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal playing together as never before.

"We have a special team," O'Neal said. "We have a 1-2 punch."

Yeah, as good as Ali or Frazier in his prime.

Another Lakers victory in the Alamodome in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals Monday night (Tuesday morning in Manila) would be close to a knockout blow as the best-of-seven series shifts to Los Angeles.

"How can you be a championship team if you don't respond?" said San Antonio's David Robinson, who was a little mystified why he was on the bench so much in Game 1. "This is where you earn your stripes. ...: I've definitely got to be on the floor more."

Bryant scored 45 and O'Neal 28 in Game 1, a 104-90 win for the Lakers' 16th consecutive victory, eighth in the playoffs.

Bryant's performance brought the inevitable comparison to Michael Jordan, a comparison that makes the 22-year-old Laker star uncomfortable.

"I'm not Michael Jordan. There will never be another Michael Jordan," Bryant insisted Sunday. "He's the greatest player of all time. Nobody can fill his shoes—period."

Yet those who ought to know say Bryant's masterful game was indeed Jordanesque.

"It was very similar," San Antonio reserve guard and former Jordan teammate Steve Kerr said. "That's what Michael always used to do. A team starts to come back and make a run, especially in their home building, the fans get behind them, then all of a sudden 'bam,' he just sucks the life out of the place. That's what Kobe was doing last night." *AP*

Back spasms slow down MJ comeback bid

WASHINGTON —On the day his Washington Wizards won the NBA draft lottery, Michael Jordan said his attempt to return as a player had been slowed by back spasms.

Speaking on a cellphone from the 12th fairway of a golf course—no, he didn't watch Sunday's lottery—Jordan said he had not worked out for a week and played down the possibility of a comeback.

"Right now I've been focusing on my job," said Jordan, the Wizards' president of basketball operations. "My back has been giving me some problems. Myself has been secondary. Right now I'm not even thinking about it.

"I just had some back spasms. With age, that happens. I had them when I was playing."

The five-time league MVP also refuted recent statements by Charles Barkley, who recently said he was going to move in to Jordan's Chicago home so the two could train together for simultaneous comeback bids with the Wizards.

"We all know Charles, and sometimes his motor gets running," Jordan said. "We have not talked about him working out with me or me working with him. That's just Charles being Charles."

Jordan said he did work out with Barkley recently on a trip to Arizona. Both former stars have been dropping weight with an eye on possible comebacks, and Barkley has said the pair will announce their decision in late June, which would coincide with the June 27 draft date.

Jordan did not address whether his own status would affect the Wizards' selection, although new coach Doug Collins has said it would.

Lottery draft

Meanwhile, Jordan finally won something with the Wizards—the NBA Draft Lottery.

The questions now are will the Wizards keep the top pick in next month's draft, and if they do, will the No. 1 choice get a chance to play with his boss.

Jordan refused to shed light on either question Sunday evening in a static-filled telephone conference call from the 12th fairway of an undisclosed golf course after the Wizards posted their biggest win in years.

"Right now I've been focusing on my job," Jordan said when asked if the thought of playing with the top pick might influence his decision on a return to the NBA.

Jordan, the Wizards president of basketball operations, was thrilled seeing the Wizards beat the odds in jumping from the No. 3 spot to No. 1 in the pingpong ball lottery.

"When you're trying to build a team, you need some wild cards," said Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles before retiring after the 1997-98 season. He joined the Wizards as a part-owner in January 2000. *AP*

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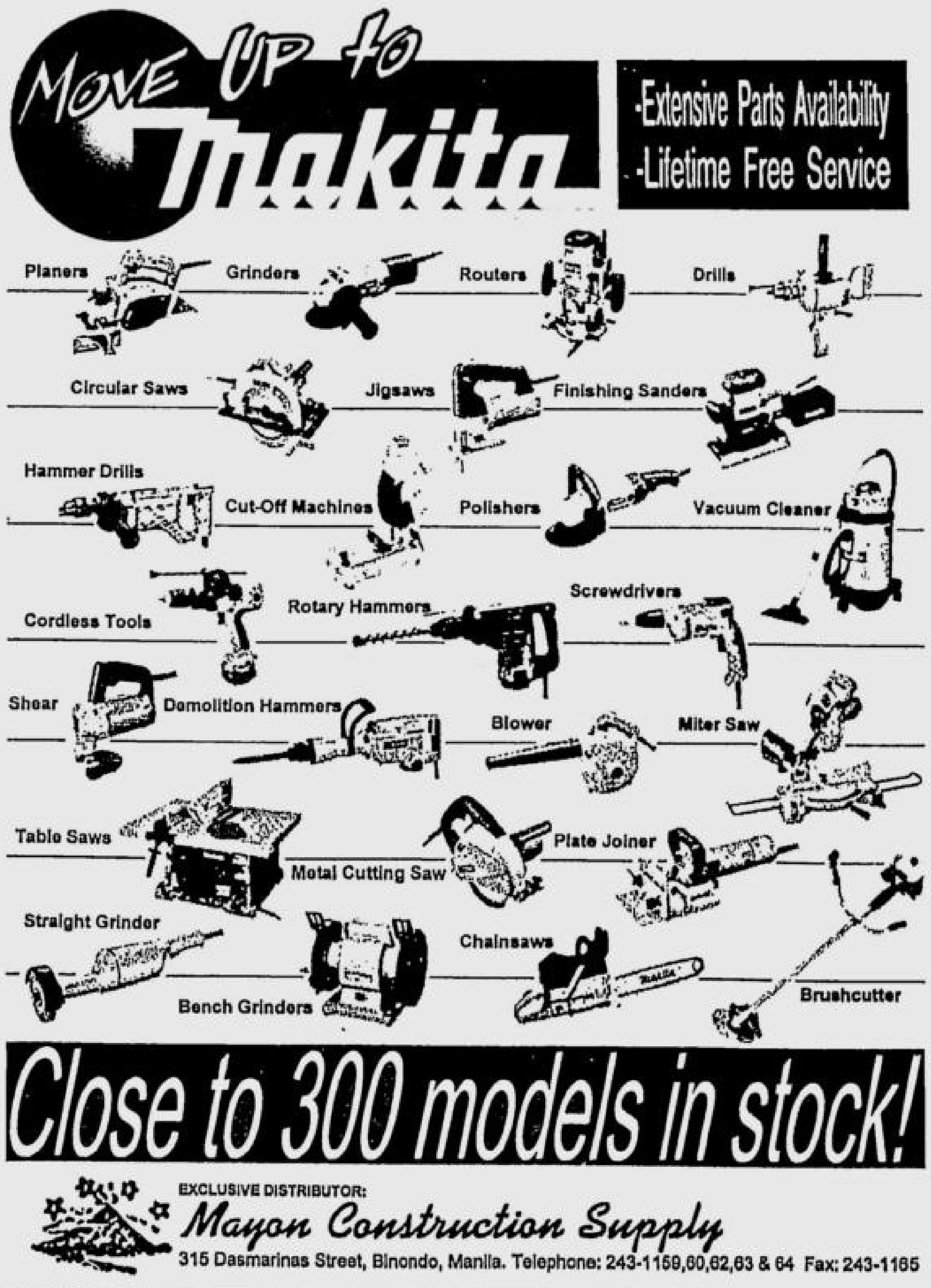

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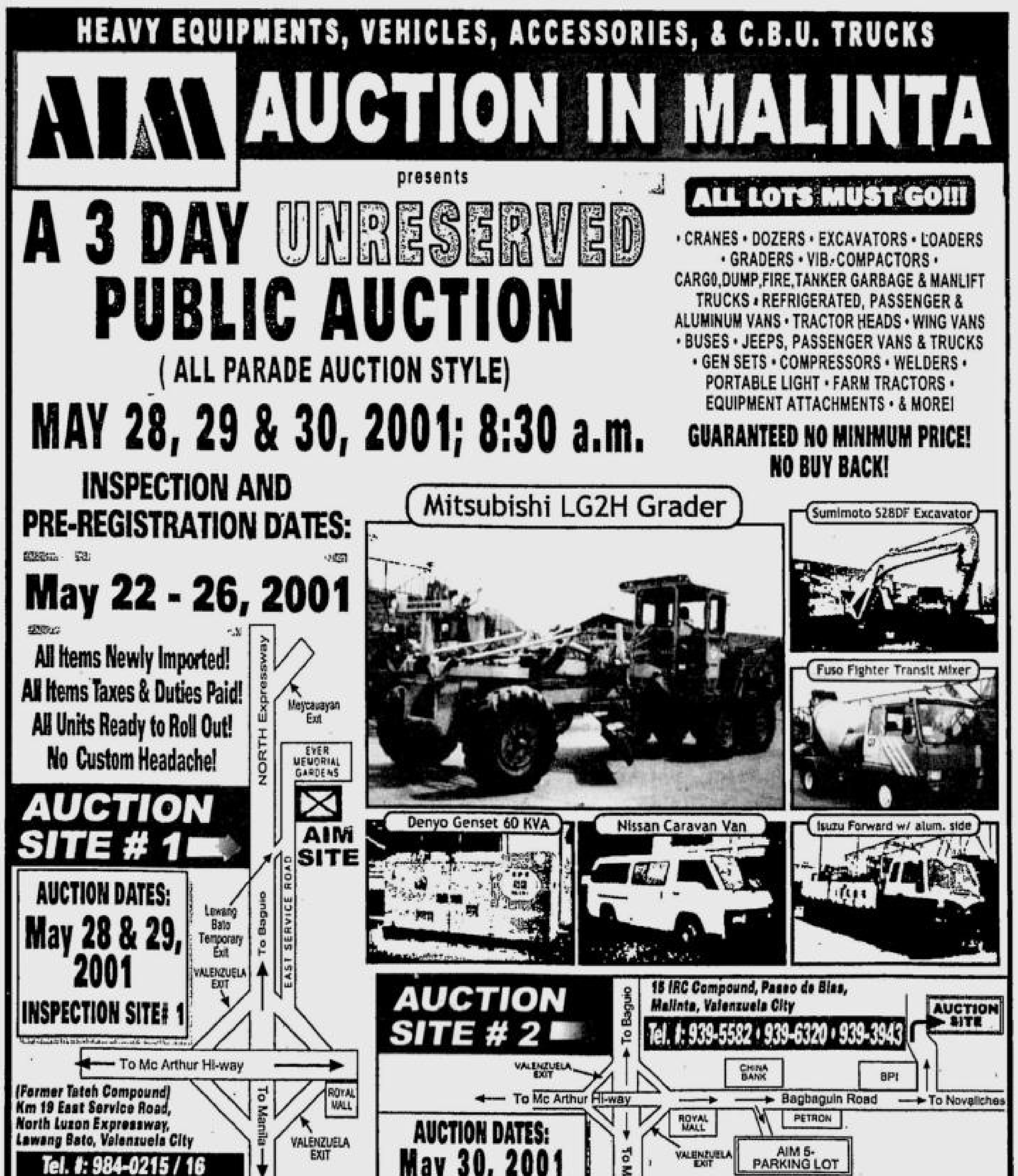

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Girl shot by Berroya men in QC chase dies

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE 10 Philippine National Police Intelligence Group (PNP-IG) agents who killed by mistake the New World Hotel chief steward are now facing double murder charges following the death on Saturday night of a young woman who was in the same car they chased.

Marian Uson, 18, of 1-GM Townhouse, Nueve de Febrero, Mandaluyong City, succumbed to a head wound at the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City.

Yesterday, Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, head of the PNP-IG, admitted that his men were involved in the ambush and killing of New World Hotel's Francisco Lozada and Uson.

Berroya said he is ready to "punish" his men, who allegedly thought Lozada was a member of a kidnapping syndicate.

Berroya said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) would handle

GIRL/ A22

We're still a force to reckon with–JV

BY AGNES E. DONATO

SAN JUAN mayor-elect Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito yesterday said the oppression of his father, deposed President Joseph Estrada, and the harassment of

WE'RE/ A22

KIDNAPPERS, KILLERS DENNIS SABANGAN

(From left) Zaldy Cariño, Tony Alcantara, Keno Mauricio and Carlito Pader, presented by police during a news briefing in Camp Crame, are suspected of kidnapping and killing college student Mark Bacalla, 23, on May 17. Their alleged leader is Onofre Surat (in police photo above) who is still at large. Police said the PNP-IG men who killed New World Hotel's Fernando Lozada *(See related story on this page)* were actually after Bacalla's kidnappers.

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Rival protests Joey Marquez proclamation

By Alcuin Papa and Gerard G. Lacuarta

REELECTIONIST Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez was proclaimed winner in the city's mayoral race yesterday afternoon at the Philippine International Convention Center, according to his media coordinator Lane Afable.

Media people were not able to witness the proclamation.

Afable said Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair Alfredo Benipayo proclaimed Marquez winner about 2:30 p.m. yesterday along with Ed Zialcita as congressman and Florencio Bernabe as vice mayor.

But mayoral candidate Pablo Olivarez, Marquez's rival, has asked the Comelec to declare the elections in Parañaque null and void because of alleged tampering of election paraphernalia, violence and massive fraud.

A volunteer of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), Nelson A. Buñol, yesterday also questioned Marquez's win and accused the comedian of padding his votes with at least 30,000 more votes.

Showing a copy of the results of the unofficial Namfrel quick count, Buñol said the total number of votes counted was 151,107 even if only 114,707 out of the 250,373 registered voters cast their votes. The Namfrel tally showed that the 36,398 excess votes were in favor of Marquez.

Buñol said he got the Namfrel report from the religious congregation Daughters of St. Paul, which monitored the elections in Parañaque.

Olivarez said in his petition that it was statistically improbable that Parañaque would have 261,803 voters as listed in the computerized voters list of the Comelec when the city only has a population of 391,296.

Last week, a brother of actress Alma Moreno, Marquez's wife, was stabbed in the abdomen during a clash between Olivarez's camp and supporters of Marquez. *With reports from Shirley Hope Sebastian and Marie Carisa Ordinario*

Lagman: Disqualify Daza for vote-buying

By Philip C. Tubeza

QUEZON City congressional candidate Edcel Lagman on Saturday asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to disqualify his opponent, Nanette Castelo Daza, for, among other things, personally buying votes before the May 14 elections.

In his petition, Lagman accused Daza of electioneering, massive vote-buying and transporting voters from Erap City in Rizal to various precincts in Quezon City's fourth district.

As of Saturday, the partial and unofficial count by the National Movement for Free Elections showed Daza leading with 28,882 votes, followed by Lagman with 27,724.

Incumbent Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. was third with 24,646.

"Daza herself, a daughter and partisan leaders openly distributed cash and envelopes containing money ranging from P150 to P500 to voters to corrupt and induce them to vote for her," Lagman said.

"Before election day and all throughout May 14, dozens of public utility jeeps were used by Daza to ferry voters, who were originally from Barangay Pinyahan and who were relocated to Erap City in Montalban, Rizal, to induce them to vote for her," Lagman said.

Daza vehemently denied the accusations. "He should already accept the fact that I already won," she said.

"Everybody knows that I don't have enough money to do those things," she said.

2 killed over Taguig polls

By Alcuin Papa and Allison Lopez

TWO men on Sunday were killed reportedly as a result of arguments over the winner of the elections in Taguig.

Reynaldo Dequiros, 32, of Barangay Dulong, Tanyag, and Richard Trinidad, 47, of Purok 14, Zone 3-B, Taguig, both sustained gunshot wounds, police said.

SPO 1 Reggie Gapasin said Dequiros was drinking with companions, including barangay leader Precious Arcueno, when Dequiros and Arcueno started arguing about mayoral candidates. Arcueno shot Dequiros, police said.

The second shooting happened in Signal Village. Trinidad was also shot after expressing support for the rival of the candidate supported by a certain "Nato," who fled after the shooting.

Taguig residents will have to wait 10 more days before they find out who their new mayor is because the local office of the Commission on Elections is having a tough time counting the ballots.

The city's chair of the board of canvassers, Eduardo Abergos, told the Inquirer that lack of manpower and the protests from candidates are slowing down their count.

"It will take us another 10 days if we work late into the night," he said. "Every time election returns are opened, they protest."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, May 22, 2001
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 16:22-34
Gospel: Jn 16:5-11

Jesus said to his disciples, "But now I am going to the One who sent me and none of you asks me where I am going; instead you are overcome with grief because of what I have said.

Indeed believe me: It is better for you that I go away; because as long as I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go away, it is to send him to you, and when he comes, he will vindicate the truth in face of the world with regard to sin, to the way of righteousness, and to the Judgment.

What has been the sin? They did not believe in me. What is the way of righteousness? I am on the way to the Father; meanwhile you will not see me. What is Judgment? The Ruler of this world has himself been condemned."

Commentary:

In all true religiosity, the only way to encounter reality is to let go of our illusions, including our very own selves. We have been so conditioned by a consumer mentality that we cling to so many things that are of no consequence to authentic human living. We are conditioned to act mainly on the basis of gaining and losing. Many of us have lost gears. We lost sight of our goal in life: to be one with the Ultimate Reality; i.e., in our Christian tradition, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Distinction between jurisdiction and venue—Jurisdiction over the subject matter or nature of an action is conferred only by law. It may not be conferred by consent or waiver upon a court which otherwise would have no jurisdiction over the subject matter of an action. On the other hand, the venue of an action as fixed by statute may be changed by the consent of the parties, and an objection on improper venue may be waived by the failure of the defendant to raise it at the proper time. In such an event, the court may still render a valid judgment. Rules as to jurisdiction can never be left to the consent or agreement of the parties. It is meant to provide convenience to the parties, rather than restrict their access to the courts as it relates to the place of trial. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Rudolf Lietz Holdings, Inc. v. Registry of Deeds of Parañaque City, G.R. No. 133240, November 15, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

We were solidly behind Oreta, says partymate

By Christian V. Esguerra

OPPOSITION candidates in Malabon-Navotas yesterday said they did not junk the daughter of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta in the local election.

Navotas Mayor Tobias Tiangco of the Puwersa ng Masa denied Rissa A. Oreta's complaint that her partymates "dropped" her, which she said resulted in her loss in the Malabon-Navotas congressional race.

"It's not true," Tiangco said. "We were solidly behind her up to the last minute. She knows that and the people know that."

Tiangco, who won a second term against Felipe del Rosario of the People Power Coalition, said the accusations "hurt" him since Oreta is his partymate.

"We haven't talked," he said. "She should have confronted us if she had complaints. But even then, I still consider her an ally."

Tiangco said other local Puwersa candidates did everything to help Oreta win against incumbent Rep. Federico Sandoval of the PPC.

But the party, he said, could only do so much since Oreta lost even in Malabon, her mother's bailiwick.

"What else can we do? We campaigned for her until the last minute."

Oreta was trailing Sandoval, 44,620 to 50,209, according to the Commission on Elections tally from 822 polling precincts as of 1:35 p.m. Sunday.

Sandoval was earlier proclaimed winner of the congressional race in Navotas.

He scored a landslide victory over Oreta, 41,532 to 28,735.

Tiangco said the party should not be blamed for Oreta's loss in Navotas since the flood-prone town is Sandoval's bailiwick.

Oreta had protested that she was the lone Puwersa candidate running for a key position in Malabon and Navotas who lost.

Her runningmate, incumbent Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio, is set to earn a third and final term after he posted a commanding lead over PPC's Flerry Marcelo.

He garnered 67,178 votes against Marcelo's 33,990, acording to partial Comelec results.

Another Puwersa candidate, Vice Mayor Jay Jay Yambao, was also leading with 47,000 votes.

Bungling cops kill innocent man

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

OH my gad! When will the police stop being bungling, fumbling fools?

When will the innocent citizens become safe from persons who are supposed to protect them?

Fernando Lozada, 48, chief steward of the New World Hotel, was shot dead after policemen mistook him, his 17-year-old daughter, Clarissa Frances and her schoolmate Marian Uson, for kidnappers. Uson succumbed to a bullet wound in the head last Saturday. Clarissa Frances suffered injuries from splintered glass.

Anak ng$#@^%^ kayo! Oh, curses of curses, how could those cops have committed such a stupid mistake!

***

Lozada , his daughter and her friend were driving home to Vista Verde Village in Cainta, Rizal, when they were flagged down by armed men at the corner of Araneta and Del Monte avenues in Quezon City last Thursday.

Apparently fearing a holdup or kidnap, Fernando did not stop. Thinking that Fernando was evading arrest, the cops fired at his car. They were after a kidnapping suspect in a car with a woman companion.

***

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group (IG), admitted his men, as well as those of two other agencies, made the ignominious blunder.

Berroya said the cops that figured in the stupid mistake belonged to the IG, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

An informant tipped them off that a kidnap suspect with a woman companion would be passing their way in a blue car. Lozada, whose car was blue, happened by.

***

Berroya said the cops, who were wearing vests with "police" markings on them, signaled Lozada to stop.

But instead of stopping, Lozada sped away.

Lozada could not be blamed for not stopping. If I were Lozada, I also would not have stopped. If I were driving my car I would have run over the armed men. If I had a driver, I would have asked him to run over the armed men.

Who would have thought that the armed men were real cops and not criminals? Most of the time you can't tell the difference between a cop and a criminal.

Clearly, Berroya's men made a big blunder, which he and his men should answer for.

Former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, who used to be Berroya's nemesis, must be dying of laughter over the stupidity of Berroya's men.

***

This top police officer is not a bungler but he is suspected of doing worse things: He allegedly demands a portion of the earnings of financiers of *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game.

The concerned police officer is assigned in Central Luzon.

My spies say he demands a 50 percent share of all net earnings from *jueteng* operators. This is on top of daily protection money he receives from a *jueteng* lord amounting to a maximum of P100,000.

***

This police officer launched a campaign against all forms of illegal gambling in Central Luzon when he took over his post.

But the campaign was only to send a message to the gambling lords that he was open for "negotiations" with them. The negotiations resulted in the resumption of *jueteng* in Region 3, said my spies.

His aide-de-camp, a chief inspector, receives the bribe money for him.

Here's a hint on whom this officer is: His wife is hated by subordinates because she interferes in assignments of personnel.

***

Customs Collector Marcial Lopez refuses to vacate his post at the Cebu port. He has filed an administrative case against his superiors in Manila, citing a Commission on Elections ban on transfer of personnel during the election period.

Lopez was relieved for alleged graft and corruption. He allegedly allowed smuggling of rice at the Cebu port.

In fact, on the same day he received his relief order, Lopez allowed the unloading of smuggled rice at the back of the customshouse at the Cebu port.

Ang kapal!

***

Another corrupt customs official holds a position, which investigates cases against smugglers. Not one case has been filed in court by this official although he has scores of cases pending in his office.

This same customs official was kicked out by former Customs Commissioner Renato Ampil for allegedly trying to extort P1 million from an importer. The importer happened to be a friend of a mistress of President Erap.

This corrupt customs official is reportedly being protected by a top man at the bureau.

***

Cagayan Rep. Jack Ponce Enrile called to squelch rumors that he was in Mindanao supposedly to help his father cheat in the counting of ballots.

"Mon, I am exhausted from a hectic campaign schedule in my province. Resting has become a luxury to me," he said, "and I have never left my home in Manila."

The young Enrile, who won in his reelection bid, said it was unfair for his father's detractors to include him in the smear campaign against the senator.

"I don't interfere in my father's affairs because he can take care of himself," said the young Enrile.

DENNIS SABANGAN

MAYOR-ELECT JV Ejercito is joined by his winning vice mayor Leonardo Celles (left) and campaign manager Boy Pacheco.

We're still . . . (From page A21)

the rest of the family have backfired on the Macapagal government and led to his "sweeping victory" in the May 14 election.

Ejercito said that if his election victory proved anything, it was that "we (Estradas) are still a force to reckon with."

Ejercito, son of the former president with former movie starlet Guia Gomez, said he had a wide margin over his rivals because of the "sympathy votes" he earned.

He said he won in all but one barangay in the town where his father started his political career as mayor in the '60s. He said the present administration did all it could to prevent his winning the election.

"I have been subjected to different forms of harassment during my campaign," he said. "First, we had to leave Malacañang; then the prosecution of my father. I was not even able to campaign for almost two weeks after Edsa III because I was threatened with a rebellion case."

At about 4 a.m. Sunday, Ejercito and the rest of the local Puwersa ng Masa team were proclaimed winners by San Juan board of canvassers chair Romeo Lobregat.

Ejercito got 27,079 votes and won over rivals Adam Jimenez and Adolfo Sto. Domingo.

Also declared winner was Leonardo Celles who won the vice mayoralty with 14,321 votes.

Former Executive Secretary Ronald Zamora finished the congressional race with 21,955 votes, leaving behind former TV newsman Ronald Estella and incumbent Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez.

Man dies in pool accident

A YOUNG man died after he dived in a swimming pool and hit his head on the pool floor in Las Piñas City Sunday night.

Warehouse worker Ramon Catimbang, 21, of Sampaguita Hills, UPS IV in Parañaque City, was declared dead on arrival at the Las Piñas Doctor's Hospital due to internal hemorrhage and drowning, police said.

PO3 Aristotle Raquion of the Las Piñas police said the accident happened at about 10 p.m. in a public swimming pool in Pulang-Lupa II, where Catimbang and his friends went swimming.

His friends said they noticed Catimbang was motionless underwater about two minutes after he jumped into the pool.

Maintenance worker Cristanzo Vergara, 22, tried to revive Catimbang but failed. *Allison Lopez*

Binay proclaimed

By Nelson F. Flores

THE COMMISSIONS on Elections yesterday proclaimed Jejomar Binay and his running mate Ernesto Mercado as the new mayor and vice mayor of Makati City amid mounting protests by losing candidates Eduardo Manzano and Robert Dean Smith Barbers.

Pedro Rosal, chair of the local election board of canvassers, proclaimed the Binay-Mercado tandem as the official winners at about 3 a.m. inside the Valenzuela Sports Complex while their supporters cheered.

Rosal said the results of the tabulation came from 1,888 precincts.

Comelec records showed that Binay got 137,030 votes while Manzano received 71,067 votes. Mercado had 115,696 votes while Barbers earned 87,373.

Aside from the Binay-Mercado tandem, Teodoro Locsin won the congressional seat in the city's first district with 61,012 votes against Armida Siguion-Reyna who only garnered 23,141 votes. Agapito Aquino grabbed the congressional seat in the second district with 56,737 votes against his rival Crystal Tenorio who only got 32,686 votes.

No member of the opposition ticket won in any of the elective post for the 18-man city council.

Councilor Mark Joseph said he will continue with his crusade for good government in Makati City even as he vowed to question the result of the elections.

He said his supporters were either threatened or disenfranchised while a number of ballot boxes were clearly tampered.

This will be a long and lonely struggle," Joseph said.

Girl shot . . . (From page A21)

the case to remove suspicions of a whitewash.

Capitol Medical Center emergency room security guard Nelson Cadalso told the Inquirer that Uson had indeed died Saturday and that Arlington Funeral Homes workers took her body from the hospital Saturday midnight.

A source said Uson was already clinically dead when she reached the hospital after the Thursday ambush.

Uson was with Lozada, 48, and his 17-year-old daughter, both of 49 Ferdinand St., Vista Verde Executive Village in Cainta, Rizal, when the PNP-IG agents shot Lozada's car along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

The agents claimed they mistook Lozada's car, a Mitsubishi Lancer (TKM-265), for the escape vehicle of a kidnapping syndicate that they were after.

Earlier, a source said Lozada drove through a police blockade and "nearly ran over an agent." Lozada's car rammed into a sidewalk, but the policemen continued firing at the vehicle, according to case investigator PO3 Diosdado Pedroanan.

Lozada died from several bullet wounds in the head and body. Glass splinters injured his daughter. Uson was hit in the head.

Central Police District (CPD) director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor has declined to name the 10 policemen, who are now facing double murder and frustrated murder charges.

"We are still waiting for the results of the paraffin tests," Tor said in a phone interview. "We don't want to accuse anyone without having enough evidence."

He said the policemen had surrendered 10 guns, which are now going through ballistic tests at the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame.

A police source said the policemen could appeal to the prosecutor's office to reduce the murder charges to homicide.

"But we're going for murder," the source added.

The agents were conducting a dragnet operation against kidnappers when the shooting happened.

Members of a kidnapping syndicate allegedly received ransom money at Glori's supermarket at the corner of Araneta and Del Monte avenues shortly before Lozada drove past in his car.

Unfortunately, Lozada's car looked exactly like the vehicle of the kidnappers. With two vehicles, PNP-IG members blocked Lozada's path on Araneta Avenue and ordered him to get off his car and surrender.

But the sight of heavily armed men apparently frightened Lozada, who drove off and "nearly ran over one of the agents."

To avoid another police blockade, Lozada made a U-turn and drove against the traffic. This might have convinced the PNP-IG members that the driver was not going to surrender peacefully.

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MINSAN MAY ISANG PUSO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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5 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
6 PILAK
7 (DTS) SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS) VALENTINE
9 (DOLBY) POSSESSED

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2 BALIKTARAN
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 (SDDS) SPY KIDS
5 POSSESSED
6 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS
7 (DTS) VALENTINE
8 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9 RESERVE

Commonwealth
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2 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 BALIKTARAN
5 (SDDS) POSSESSED
6 SPY KIDS
7 (DOLBY) EXIT WOUNDS
8 PILAK

Ortigas
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2 BALIKTARAN
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4 PILAK
5 (SDDS) EXIT WOUNDS

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1 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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MARKET!MARKET! Mandaluyong
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3 RESERVE
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1
3 PILAK

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2 VALENTINE
3 POSSESSED
4 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5 PILAK

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2 SPY KIDS
3 PILAK
4 DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5 RESERVE
6 KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115
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2 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3 PILAK
4
5

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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2 EXTREME WARRIORS
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ANTI TRUST
2 (DTS) SUGAR & SPICE
3 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS
4 BALIKTARAN

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2 POSSESSED
3 SPY KIDS
4 (DTS) PILAK

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS
2 BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS) ANTI TRUST
4 SUGAR & SPICE
5 ATTACK FORCE

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2 SPY KIDS
3 SUGAR & SPICE

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 ANTI TRUST
2 SPY KIDS
3 WEDDING PLANNER

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 PURPLE STORM
2 WEDDING PLANNER
3 DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

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2 ANTI TRUST
3 EXTREME WARRIORS

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2 LUCKY NUMBERS
3 SAY IT ISN'T SO
4 SUGAR & SPICE

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tel 879.2168
1 THEY NEST
2 PILAK

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 PILAK
2 BALIKTARAN
3
4

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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3 SUGAR & SPICE
4 (DTS) SAY IT ISN'T SO

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Backstreet Boys reveal 'Secret'

A LIMITED edition MTV VCD of the Backstreet Boys will soon be available as a special gift from the group, with every purchase of their "Black & Blue" album.

The limited-edition pack will be available only in Asia, and is being launched this month in Taiwan, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Dubai, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong.

"This exclusive VCD produced by MTV is a special treat for Backstreet Boys fans," says Zomba Records Asia-Pacific managing director Ryan Wright. "It's the band's way of saying a big 'thank you' to their legion of fans in Asia who have supported them throughout their illustrious career."

The Backstreet Boys' "Secret Diary" VCD includes exclusive footage of the boys performing on the roof of MTV studios in New York, behind-the-scene interviews, scenes from "MTV Fanatic" and some of the group's most popular music videos. A special a cappella version of "Shape of My Heart," which debuted as the top single on Billboard's Hot 100 singles chart, is also included.

Hailed by Rolling Stones magazine as "the biggest band in the world today," the Backstreet Boys became the first group in music history to sell five million copies of an album in only one week.

Their fourth studio album, "Black & Blue," has been a phenomenal success around the world. It continues to be the best selling album in Asia with more than 2.3 million units sold since its release in November 2000.

They also set a new precedent by becoming the first music artists in Soundscan history to have two consecutive albums, "Millennium" and "Black & Blue," sell more than 1 million copies in their debut week.

The Backstreet Boys have sold more than 55 million albums in the last three years and won the Best Group award in last year's MTV Europe Music Awards in Stockholm.

Truefaith

(From page A37)

songs. It seems we work better under pressure. I'm really glad things worked out."

"LIVE" is available on compact discs and cassettes from Octo-Arts EMI Music. Every purchase of the album will include a free VCD featuring videoke versions of "Sumasarap ang Gising" and their award-winning music video "(Awit Para) sa Kanya."

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VALENTINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	VALENTINE
ODEON-2	POSSESSED
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS. CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA..
CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-7	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VALENTINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-12	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-14	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-15	EXIT WOUNDS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-2	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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‘VALENTINE’

Inane and unintentionally funny

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

THE ONLY reason I decided to see “Valentine” was because I saw a publicity photo of the movie showing Denise Richards in a two-piece bikini and in a jacuzzi. I saw it in front of the theater and it seemed Denise’s yahoos were just begging me to come inside. Naturally, I obliged.

REVIEW

For those of you who might be lured the same way, let me get this out of the way: There is no nudity in this movie, although Denise and her similarly ample-breasted gal pals are seen plenty of times wearing tank tops and other flesh-bearing apparels.

The rest of "Valentine" fulfills the requisites of postmodern slasher movies that have mushroomed after the success of "Scream." This certainly is no surprise, the director of "Valentines" being Jamie Blanks of "Urban Legend" fame. Or notoriety.

So expect the carnage, the masked slaughterer and all the running about and screaming. Expect also the inane dialogue and the baffling whodunit in the end.

I'm not much of a fan of slasher movies. I prefer horror and suspense features that are able to sustain your edginess throughout the movie, and not those that terrify you only during particular scenes when you know somebody has to get killed.

Killer Cupid

In the slasher movies of late, "Valentine" included, this has become somewhat of the norm. The victim finds himself or herself all alone, most probably somewhere dark, the music builds up to heighten the tension, and your nervousness is increased by the anticipation of a kill, after which everything becomes hum again, and you just wait for the next kill, with the same buildup.

It works for a while, but after seeing more than a few of these scenes, you find that a trip inside the haunted house at the local carnival gives you a better scare.

Still, I have to admit that there's something somewhat appealing about the idea of a bunch of major babes being stalked by a Cupid-masked killer on Valentine's Day. We are led to understand through the movie's prologue that the killer is a nerd whom the babes spurned and humiliated in sixth grade.

The nerd, Jeremy Melton, is traumatized by their rejection. He ends up in reform school, his parents die in a fire, and he is never seen or heard of again. On Valentine's Day 13 years later, he seeks revenge on his "tormenters."

> Aside from the bloodshed and the gore that one expects in a movie like this, everything else is just dull

Laughable plot

Crazy, you say? I won't spoil anything for you so I'll just say it gets crazier. By the time you get to the conclusion the movie will have become ridiculous.

The plot of Valentine—if it could be called a plot—is laughable, but then again, it's a slasher movie.

Aside from Richards, the other actors playing victims are Marley Shelton who also appears in the currently showing "Sugar and Spice," Jessica Cauffiel, Jessica Capshaw (daughter of Steven Spielberg's current wife Kate Capshaw) and Katherine Heigl.

All of them are very nice to look at but not much else. Playing one of their boyfriends is David Boreanaz who used to play Buffy's vampire boy-toy but now has his own TV spin-off in "Angel." His acting is just as wooden as the young women and he's totally miscast in the part. He looks too old.

At least the screenwriters—it took four of them to come up with this screenplay, would you believe—find one or two new ideas for the murder scenes, as when one of the victims has to hide in a morgue full of body bags or when the killer stalks another inside an audiovisual sex-art exhibit (local artists might find this a good concept).

Fillers

The characters also do a lot of wandering about to fill the gaps in between the killings. They look for ideal mates just like in romance movies. One bickers with her stepmother who's younger than she is. The other has an impending reconciliation with her recovering alcoholic-boyfriend.

Some of the fillers are intended for comic relief which, of course, is one of the ingredients of the genre. Some other scenes are funny even if they aren't meant to be. But aside from the bloodshed and the gore that one expects in a movie like this, everything else is just dull.

As for Denise Richard's scene in the jacuzzi, it'll probably end up in "Scary Movie 3." Hopefully, she'll get to play herself.

One-stop resort for singing, dancing, swimming, laughing

ISLAND Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite, a 12-hectare tropical resort south of Metro Manila, offers itself as a venue for cool evening entertainment and relaxation.

The Purple Ostrich Café, Bar Disco and Concert Hall has sing-along on Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesdays are for comedy as well as sing-along led by the wacky talents of The Library of Malate, with an entrance fee of only P50.

Thursdays are ballroom dancing nights. Friday nights, guests can party all night to live band music. Disco dancing happens on Saturdays.

Island Songs, the 32-room KTV, is open weeknights from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., and weekends and holidays from 1 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Oceania, a 2,979-square-meter two-layered swimming pool with four towering slides, is open for day and night swimming, and is the site of the Oceania Wet Disco, a rave party sponsored by San Miguel Beer every Thursday night from 7 p.m. onwards. Tickets are at P180, inclusive of one SMB product.

Those who wish to stay overnight can avail themselves of Island Cove's Any Day Getaway promo of P2,600 for a superior hotel room with set breakfast for two. Two kids aged 12 years and below can share the room with their parents free of charge.

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CUNETA

New Megastar album full of old songs

SHARON Cuneta sings old songs in her new album "Nothing I Want More," a collection of hits from the '80s, mostly her personal favorites.

"Looking back, I find that I have had to endure more upheavals in several areas of my life in the past year than ever before," says the Megastar. She lost her father, Pasay Mayor Pablo Cuneta, in the sixth month of her pregnancy.

In December, she gave birth to a girl she named Frankie.

Included in "Nothing I Want More" are a medly of Barry Manilow's "Even Now" and "Somewhere Down the Road," "He's Out of My Life, "Careless Whisper," "Lift Up Your Hands." "It's Only Love," "Please Don't Ask Me," "Smile Again," "The Promise," "Overjoyed," "Don't Forget Me," "Maybe," and "Nothing I Want More," which was first recorded by Louie Reyes and Eugene Villaluz.

Bon Jovi set to crush records

WHILE his album "Crush" is still red-hot in the music charts, legendary rock band Bon Jovi is again vying for another bestseller slot through "One Wild Night," distributed in the Philippines by MCA Universal.

"One Wild Night" is divided into 15 chapters, with each one a mini novella. The album contains stories of faith and prayer, love and pain, friends and fantasies.

Bon Jovi recently earned a gold record award in the Philippines for "Crush." The album has now sold more than 7 million copies all over the world.

"Crush" has achieved the multiple platinum mark four times in Japan, thrice in Hong Kong, twice in Ireland, Italy, Korea, Germany, Switzerland, and Spain, and once so far in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Holland, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, UK and 25 other countries.

In the US, "Crush" has gone double platinum by selling more than 2 million copies. The album also earned 2 Grammy nominations for Bon Jovi this year.

BON JOVI

CANTO BOYS

Stardom is just around the corner for Canto Boys

JOINING the rush to stardom in the music business today is a tandem called Canto Boys.

The first offering of Canto Boys, "Tonight & Forever," is lifted from the tandem's self-titled debut album from MCA Universal.

"Tonight & Forever" is now heard on the air lanes and fast paving the way to the hit charts for the Canto Boys.

Canto Boys is composed of brothers Joseph and Cristopher Astor who hail from Pampanga.

Their name, they point out, is spelled with a "C" and not with a "K" and was derived from the Spanish word "canter" which means "to sing."

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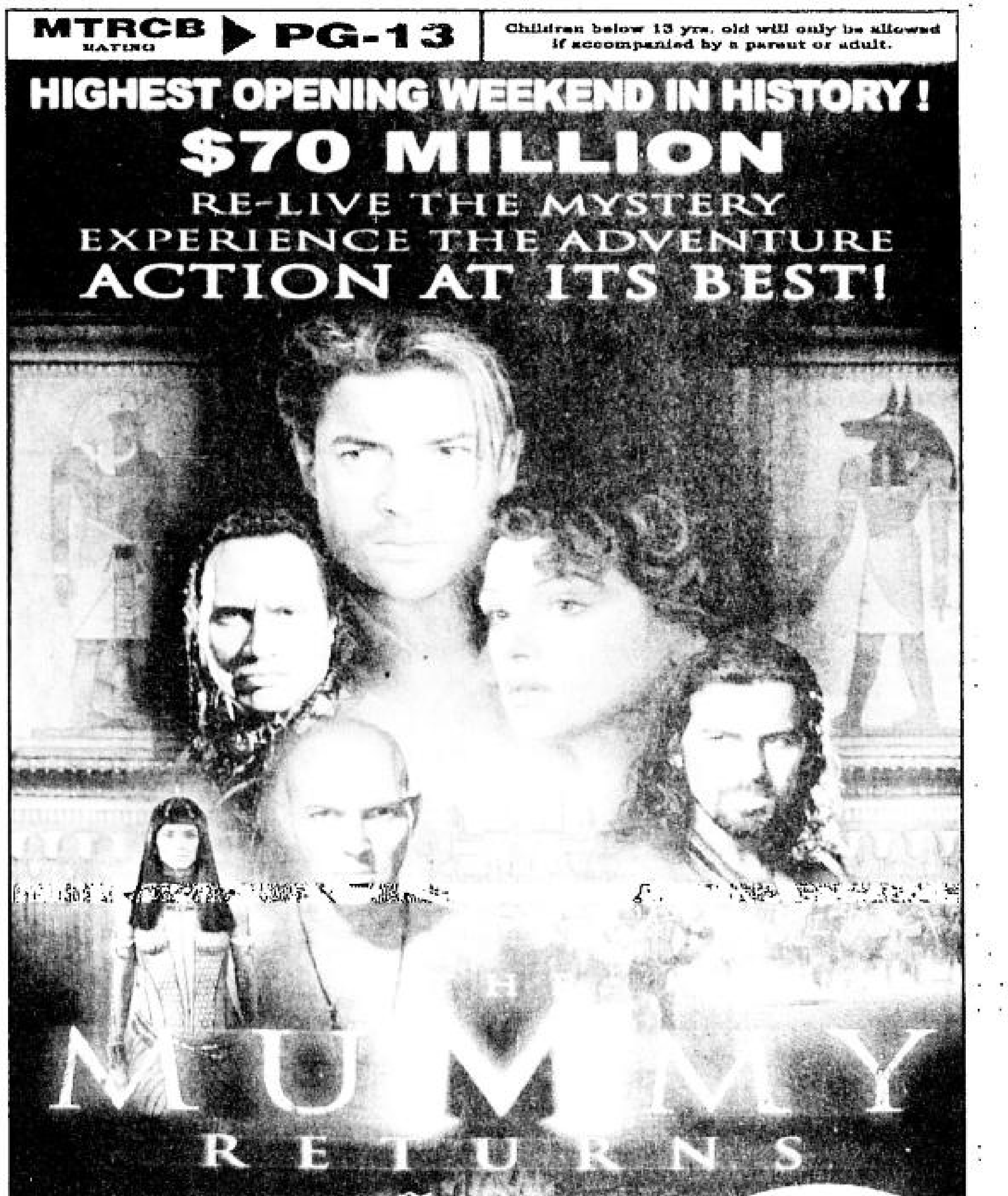
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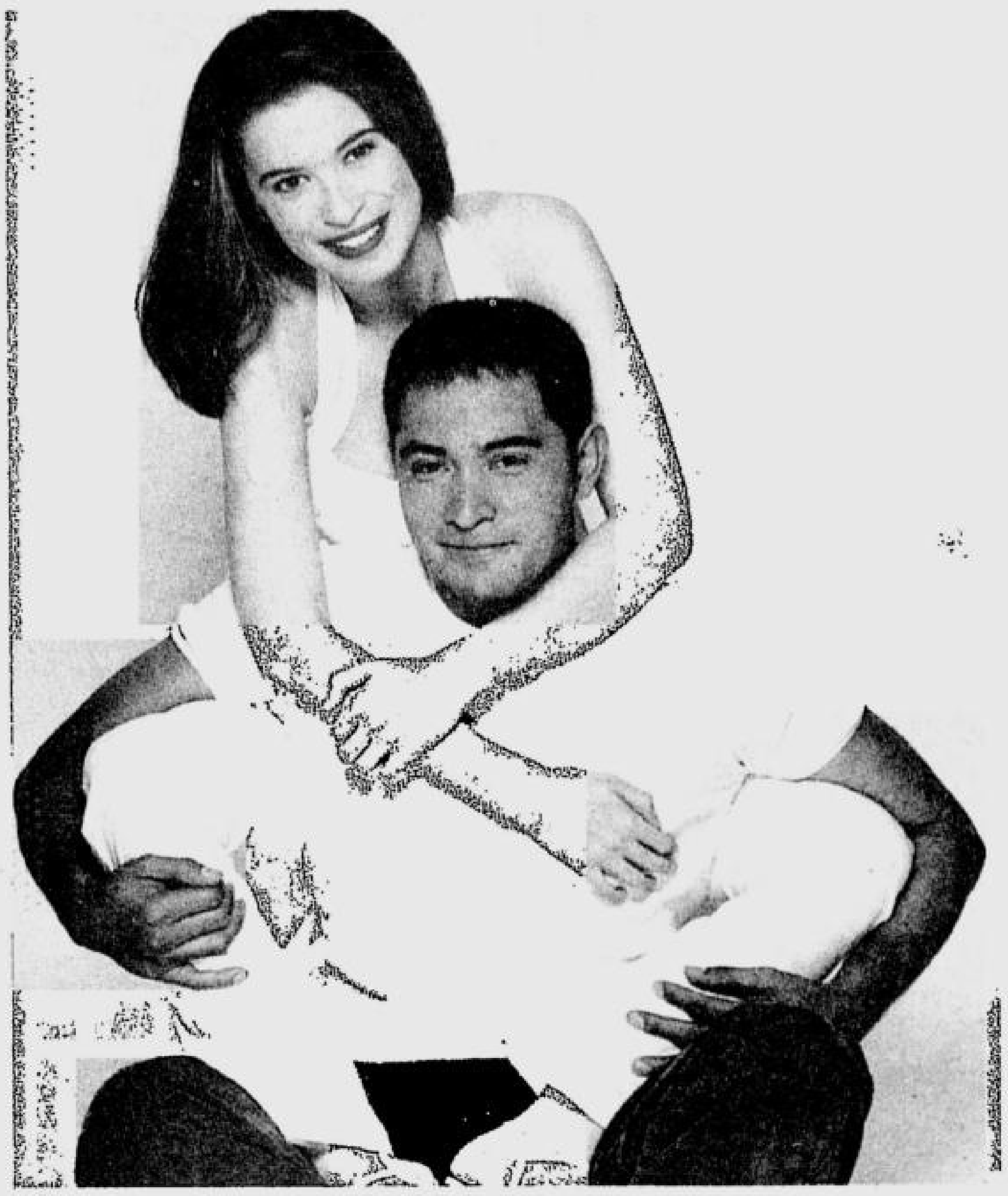

SUNSHINE ON HIS SHOULDERS. Cesar hopes their baby will be as fair complexioned as she.

Cesar M looks forward to baby with Sunshine and face-off with Boyet

By Remy M. Umerez

FULFILLMENT for the much-married Cesar Montano is appearing in a well-made action thriller with another actor whom he respects, like drama king Christopher de Leon.

Putting the two big actors together in one movie is a casting coup in the league of John Woo's "Face-Off" where giants John Travolta and Nicolas Cage figure in a breathtaking encounter.

The new Boyet-Cesar movie is "Alas Dose," which took almost a year to finish, including the time when Cesar was courting Sunshine Cruz who eventually became Mrs. Montano before the movie was completed. Before "Alas Dose" could be finished, Cesar and Sunshine had taken several trips abroad, and two directors had been working on the movie.

We will spare you the details on why Erik Matti failed to complete the movie, 80 percent of which he directed. To the rescue came Augie Salvador who, with his usual calm and gentle ways, put the pieces together and added the finishing touch and in the process earned the gratitude of everybody involved in the production.

Salvador gets full credit for "Alas Dose" and Matti doesn't mind.

Cesar, himself a director, could have finished the movie but begged off, out of respect for Matti and what the latter had started. Besides, Cesar was shooting another movie and would rather not work under heavy pressure since he and Sunshine were still reveling in their honeymooning period.

In "Alas Dose," Cesar is Titus Varona, a bomb expert who is on the trail of an ideological bomber played by Boyet de Leon. The two men face each other in a fight that is both physical and psychological against a backdrop of uncertain times.

"Boyet is the most professional actor I've worked with," says Cesar, paying the usual tribute to De Leon. "He comes to the set fully prepared and you better watch out if you don't know your lines well. He can memorize a revised script in the wink of an eye.

"He has a very sharp memory and his approach to acting is so infectious his costars should always be alert. Difficult scenes become easy to stage with seasoned actors like Boyet."

Sunshine plays a TV journalist whose father is a prison director. Patricia Javier is a cop who is Cesar's partner on the job.

Also in the cast are Dick Israel, Rommel Montano, Von Vibar and Rico J. Puno.

On the mistaken notion that he is a choosy actor and would rather take on more roles like what he played in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's acclaimed "Jose Rizal" and "Muro Ami," Cesar says: "What I meant was for every commercial movie assignment that I accept, it would be nice if something like 'Jose Rizal' would come along. I will never rule out doing commercial movies because moviemaking is big business all over the world and producers have to recoup their investments somehow.

"On the other hand," he adds, "I admire producers who takes the risk of producing something other than the ordinary, producers who believe in competing in film festivals abroad. To be recognized for one's acting excellence is the dream of every actor. It is priceless."

Among the movies Cesar has made, he is particularly proud of "Jose Rizal" because it was both a critical success and a blockbuster. "Muro Ami" is also close to his heart not only because it reaffirms his bankability as an action star but also because of the risks he took in portraying an anti-hero fisherman-diver who exploits children.

Cesar is now directing "Mananabas" for a new production outfit.

Cesar is counting the days until September when his wife Sunshine, who is five months pregnant, gives birth to their first baby. He is hoping it would be a girl and as fair skinned as his wife.

"We in the family are all on the dark side so I'd love to have a fair-skinned baby," he quips.

From a previous union, Cesar has two grown-up children, Angelo and Angela, who both get along fine with stepmom Sunshine.

By September, the multi-faceted Cesar, who is also into painting, hopes to mount his first one-man painting exhibit.

Truefaith's new album not true to its title

TRUEFAITH'S new album "LIVE" (Legalized Intense Vague Emotions) is finally out.

The album's carrier single, "Sumasarap ang Gising," is now heard on FM radio and its video, megged by Robert Quebral, is seen on MTV.

TRUEFAITH

The single shows the band doing what it does best: catchy pop tunes laced with rock. It was created by lyricist Russell Molina and composer Juan Miguel Salvador.

The rest of "LIVE" is the kind of sound that Truefaith has always wanted to do all these years, incorporating horns and strings to produce a combination of old-fashioned R&B, pop, jazz and Motown.

Despite the title, "LIVE" is not a live concert album. According to vocalist Medwin Marfin, "We don't want to go into the live album thing just because it's the 'in' thing. That also explains why there are no covers or revivals in this album."

"LIVE" is the very first full album recorded by Truefaith's present line-up: Jake Lumacad on keyboards, Jay Valencia and Eugene Marfil on guitars, Bimbo Yance on bass, Jun Dizon on drums and Medwin Marfin on lead vocals. Most of the songs were written during the recording process.

"Things were really spontaneous," says Medwin. "We entered the studio with only three

TRUEFAITH/A36

Captain's Bar alive with major bands

ELECTRIFYING live band entertainment livens up the Captain's Bar at the Mandarin Oriental nightly except Sundays from 9 p.m. onwards.

The seasoned groups are led by the 747 Band, whose members come from the musically inclined Cruz family which has produced stars such as Geneva, Sunshine and Donna Cruz. Considered one of Manila's foremost show bands, it does a wide selection of music from contemporary rock to jazz and Latin.

The 747 was formed 20 years ago and has performed in China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Iraq and Taiwan. It consists of band leader Danny Cruz, vocalists Cecilia Cruz and Maricel Matias, drummer Cesar Cruz Jr., trombone player Jeffrey Cruz, percussionist Boyet Cruz, bass guitarist Darwin Cruz, and trumpet player Ogie Celestial.

Performing back to back with the 747 Band from Monday to Wednesday is the Millennium Band, composed of band leader and keyboard player Jess Balmaceda, bassist Sammy Villarin, trombone player Edwin Valente, sax man Dex Asnay, trumpet player Nilo Villanueva, and vocalists Marianne Barrameda, Jiji Sanchez and Boy Najarro.

The Millennium Band has played in Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, the United States and Europe.

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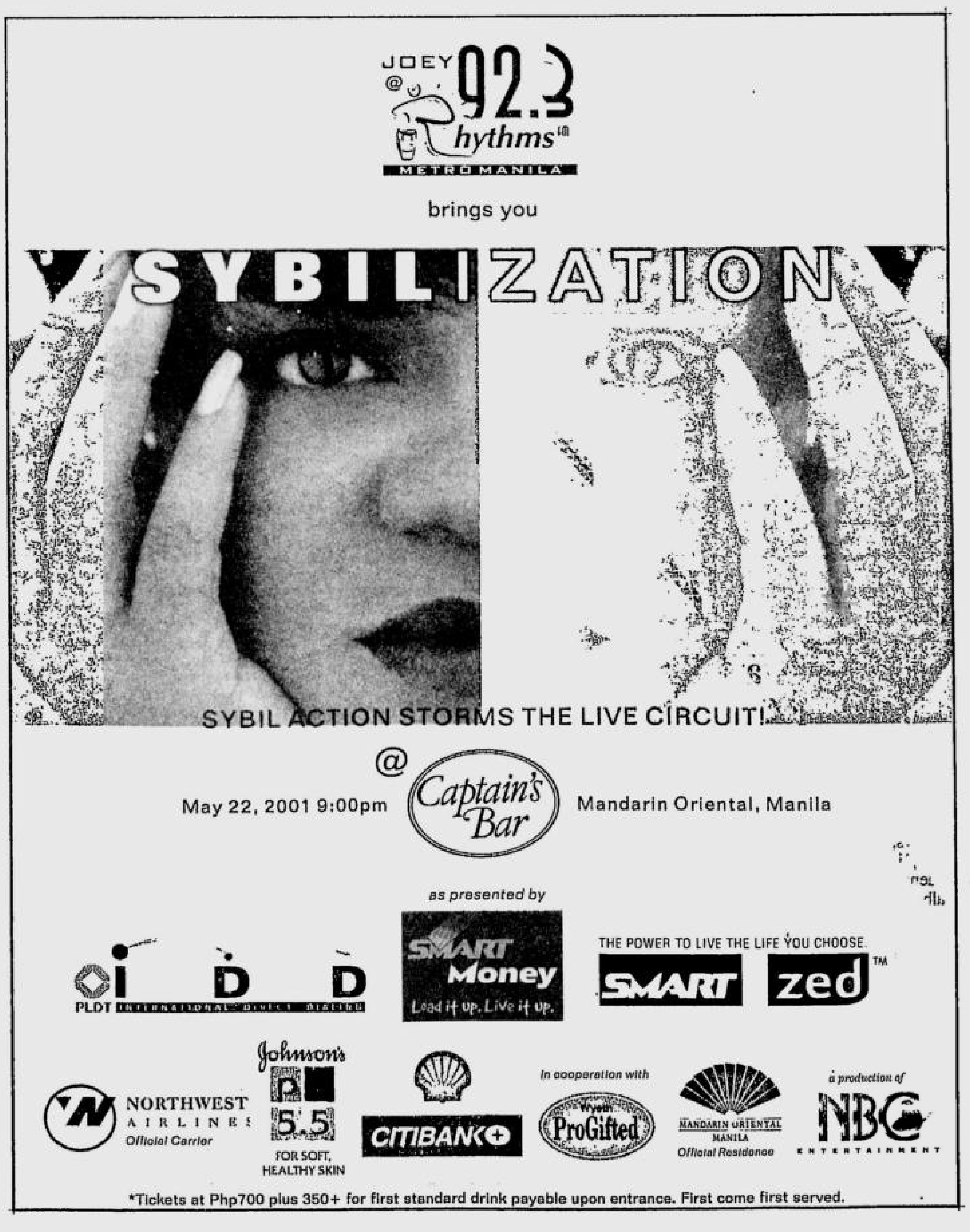

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Young actors in the driver's seat

AFTER "Speed," **Keanu Reeves** became a hot property in Hollywood, primed for bigger successes (like "Matrix") to come. This has sent a strong message to starbuilders in the biz with their own young comers to push into bigtime stardom.

That's why, this film season, a number of movies about car racing have been lined up, each with a hot, young "star of tomorrow" in the driver's seat:

In "Redline," **Paul Walker** plays an undercover cop who gets involved with high-speed street racers in order to investigate a jewelry theft.

In "Driven," **Kip Pardue** is a hotshot young speedster who is kept from melting down during a championship series of races by an old racing pro played by **Sylvester Stallone.**

There are also plans to make a live-action film of the Japanese cartoon "Speed Racer," with **Freddie Prinze Jr.** being tapped to play the title role.

Finally, ace action director **Tony Scott** (Ridley's brother) is set to shoot "Hell's Angels," based on the sexy memoirs of a top biker, and **Benicio del Toro** may get first crack at the colorful lead role.

Love at first sight

MOVIELINE'S **Leigh Niles** tells these unique stories about love at first sight, Hollywood-style: **Julia Roberts** says the first time she laid eyes on **Benjamin Bratt** at a restaurant in New York City in 1997, she fell so hard for him that it was like somebody had hit her over the head with a club!

Warren Beatty says it took him only 30 seconds to fall in love with **Annette Bening** the first time he saw her.

Dylan McDermott fell in love at first sight with his wife **Shiva** when he saw her at a café in Venice Beach.

Right after **Michael Douglas** saw **Catherine Zeta-Jones** in "The Mask of Zorro," he vowed to one of his brothers that he would marry her.

And **Anne Heche** fell in love with **Ellen Degeneres** the minute she spotted her across the room at the 1997 Vanity Fair Oscar party.

TV treats

TUESDAY, May 22 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Brokedown Palace" stars Claire Danes, Kate Beckinsale, Bill Pullman and Lou Diamond Phillips. Two friends plan a summer vacation and leave without telling their parents. All's well until they get involved with a man who turns out to be a drug dealer and uses them as couriers in Thailand.

Wednesday, May 23 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Without Malice" stars **Jennifer Beals, Craig Sheffer, Corey Haim** and **Gabrielle Anwar.** Beals' character joins a weekend hunting adventure that takes a deadly turn after a man is murdered. Replay is on May 28 at 11 p.m.

Thursday, May 24 at 2:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle" stars **Rebecca de Mornay, Annabella Sciorra** and **Julianne Moore.** De Mornay plots revenge against Sciorra for the death of her husband. She proceeds to terrorize Sciorra's family, attempts to seduce her husband and generally tries to destroy her.

At 9:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, meet two hardworking dogs. The first is Petro, a search and rescue dog that heroically participated in rescue efforts after a massive earthquake in Turkey.

The other dog, Mel is a show puppy. The program shows him and his trainer preparing for a big contest.

New season

"EPOL/Apple," the how-to-speak-English educational show, will start its new season on June 5 at 8:30 a.m. on Channel 2.

Bodgie Pascua is *Tito* **Luis**, the "gate keeper to the magic world" of learning the English language. He is wittily assisted by Porfirio, a bird puppet that adds fun to every episode.

"Epol/Apple" will be telecast every Tuesday, with replays every Thursday at 8:30 a.m

Listen to 'The Corrs Live' on 89.9, win HBO jackets

TO help you keep warm in the coming rainy season, tune in to radio station Magic 89.9 and get a chance to win exclusive and imported HBO jackets worth $60 each and other prizes.

At the same time, enjoy "The Corrs Live at Wembley Arena" presented by Magic 89.9, Warner Music Philippines and HBO in four parts—on May 16, 21, 26 and 29. The Corrs are expected in Manila in September for a one-night-only concert.

Listeners can win exclusive HBO jackets, as well as The Corrs posters, T-shirts and CD singles if they give the right answer every time Magic jock asks for two songs that The Corrs performed in their Wembley Arena concert.

Four in one show at Kampo

COMEDIAN Leonard Obal and recording artists Michael Laygo, Yam Ledesma and Alynna perform in a musical comedy concert called "Afat Dafat . . . in Love" at Kampo West in Quezon City on May 31 starting at 8 p.m.

Leonard, Michael and Yam are regular hosts of the show "Lunchbreak" on Channel 13. Leonard is also part of "Ispup" on Channel 5.

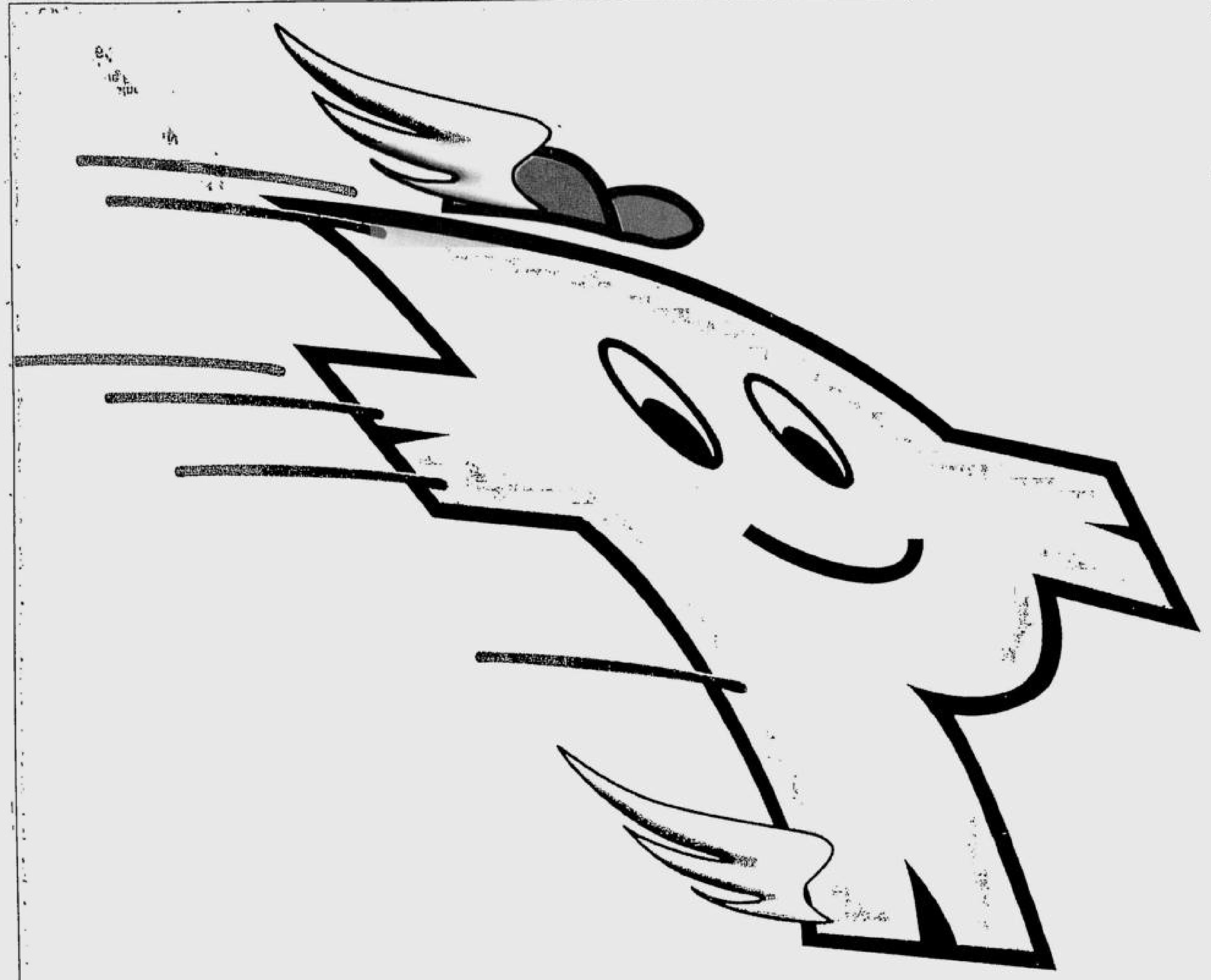
Michael, fresh from a tour of Japan, is promoting his new album "Naririto Ako" from Asiatec Music Production, distributed by D'Concorde Records, with the carrier single of the same time.

Yam has just revived "Kaibigan Lang Pala" and is set to record the theme song of the movie "Mahal Kita, Kahit Sino Ka Pa," starring Judy Ann Santos and Mikey Arroyo.

Alynne is the voice behind the naughty love songs "Kahit Gaano Kalaki" and "Pasumpa-sumpa Ka Pa" from Viva Records.

"Afat Dafat" is produced by Applause Entertainment.

For details and tickets, call Joy Laygo at 921-8442 or 0917-430-4676.



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91-day T-bill rate down 20.7 points

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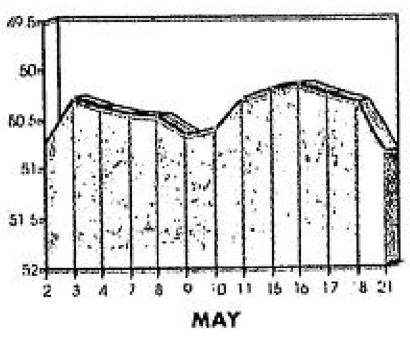


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.84 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
May 21, 2001

Y 123.26 = $1

The US dollar was trading
at 123.26 as of 5 p.m.,
May 21, 2001

GOLD:$289.00/290.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 21, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares up

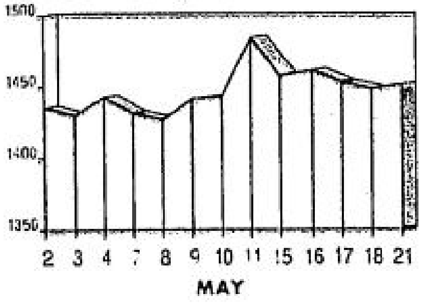
STOCKS yesterday closed slightly higher after loitering in negative territory most of the session, helped by buying of Index-linked Philippine National Bank and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The 33-share composite index rose 3.14 points, or 0.22 percent, to close at 1,451.76 after moving in a nine-point range.

But in the wider market, losers swamped gainers 43 to 27 while the prices of 36 issues were unchanged. Turnover was lower at P291.01 million from P397.48 million on Friday.

Reuters

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE YIELD of the benchmark 91-day Treasury bills dropped by 20.7 basis points while that of the six-month debt papers declined 16.5 points following the 50-basis points cut in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key overnight rates last week.

However, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza was disappointed that the 364-day T-bill rate did not follow this trend as it, instead, registered a slight increase of 0.02 points to 11.35 percent.

He accused traders of jacking up the rates of the one-year debt paper in view of the bidding today of the five-year government bonds worth P3. The yield of the five-year bonds stood at 14.5 percent during the last bidding in February last year but the secondary market is pricing the papers slightly lower to 14.2 percent.

"If they are naughty, we can be naughtier. If they think they have done something sneaky today, they should watch out tomorrow," Edeza said.

The bids of the one-year paper were disappointing and unreasonable, he said. "They are trying to push long-term rates because of the five-year auction. But it (the bid) has to be 14 percent or we will reject it."

Edeza said banks should have not penalized the government because it was a risk-free borrower. "We don't add to their NPLs (nonperforming loans) so they should not be sneaky."

In yesterday's auction, the yield of the 91-day T-bill stood at 9.306 percent while the six-month paper was at 10.75 percent. Dealers had expected the T-bill rates to fall by about 20 to 30 basis points.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the market continued to wait for better revenue growth and lower deficit reports before it would fully agree to bring down yields on longer term instruments.

Buenaventura, however, noted the unusual gaps between the yields of the different tenors. The gap between the yields of the 91-day and 182-day paper was almost 150 basis points, which was wider than the "normal gap" of between 50 and 75 basis points.

Edeza said the market seemed to have factored in the bids a possible rise in inflation over the next few months.

He said treasury bill yields would likely remain at current levels unless US monetary authorities would further bring down their rates in the coming months.

Treasury bill rates track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates. Banks, for their part, use the 91-day yield as a benchmark in pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills.

A securities dealer from a foreign bank said the market remained uncertain on long-term prospects. This, he said, explained the lower cuts in the rates of longer tenor instruments.

Palace junks SKD import policy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration has slammed the door on Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. and Auto Prominence Corp. in their bid to get preferred duties on automotive imports by discontinuing the controversial policy on semi-knocked down importation.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said Malacañang has adopted the Board of Investments' recommendation to reject all pending and future applications for importation of semi-knocked down units in order to encourage vehicle makers to sell more locally-assembled units, such as Asian utility vehicles which extensively use locally-made automotive parts.

With this policy, all SKD imports would be suitably assessed the 30-percent duty slapped on completely built-up (CBU) units. SKD units are virtually ready-to-go vehicles without tires and batteries but are assessed the same rates as completely knocked down (CKD) at 3 percent for passenger cars and 10 percent for commercial vehicles.

Ford is seeking the green light to bring in 2,000 Escape units while APC is shipping in a total of 1,570 units of Volkswagen Gol and Parati in SKD format. The 20 percent to 27-percent tariff gap is substantial enough to price their units at steep discount to local buyers.

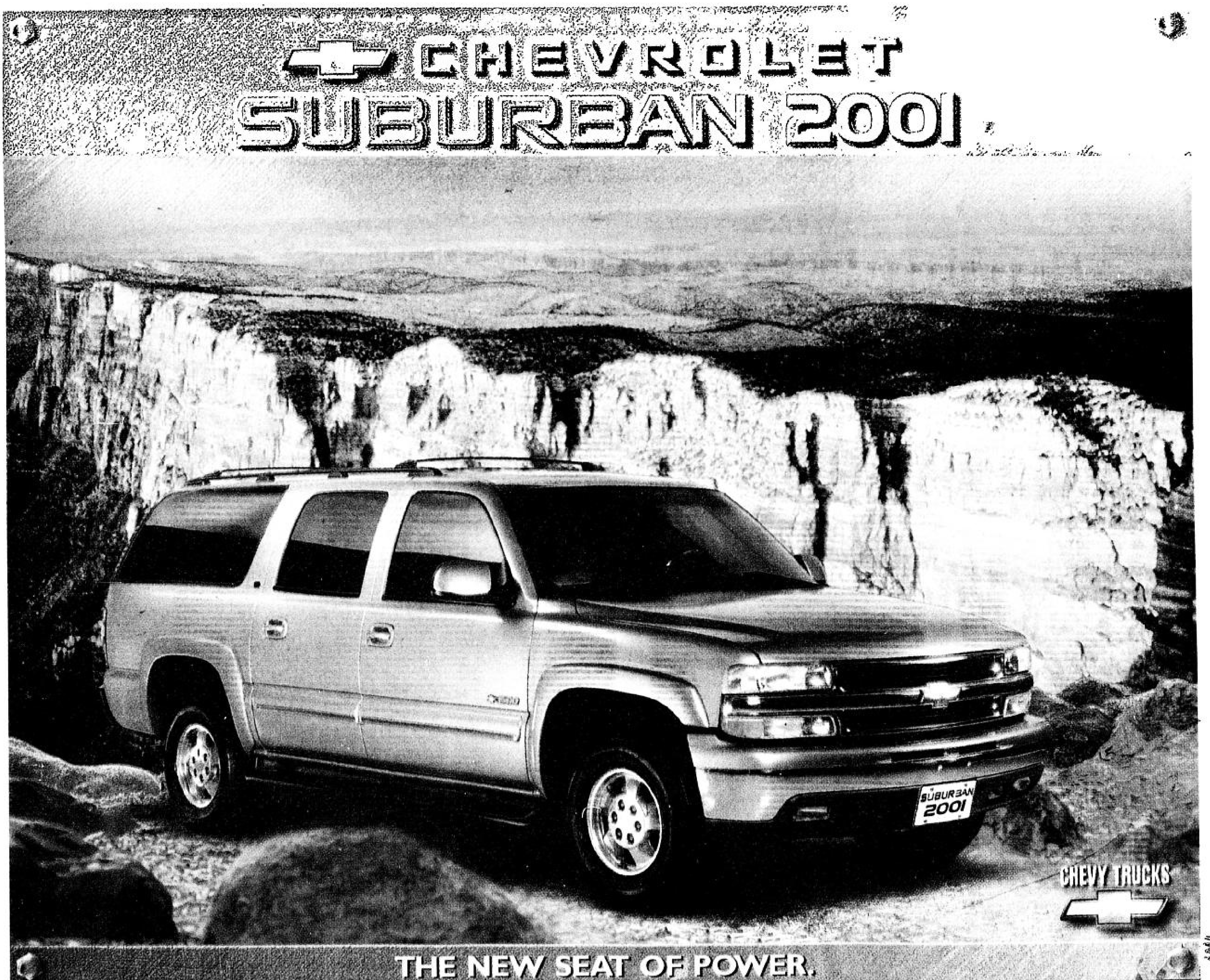
Roxas noted that the BOI has stopped granting SKD import licenses since 1998 because the agency felt that the local industry was capable to do full CKD assembly as the Motor Vehicle Development Program prodded participants to invest heavily on putting up assembly facilities in the country in the past few years.

Also, Roxas noted that the government was losing P225 million in taxes for every 1,000 SKD units sold in the country.

Industry players have invested a total of P68 billion for assembly and parts manufacturing facilities. This sector has emerged a major dollar earner generating $1.15 billion in exports last year.

Despite the BOI's termination of the SKD licenses, Malacañang gave special permits to a choice set of assemblers in the last three years to bring in SKDs. These were Proton Pilipinas Corp. (APC's predecessor) which proposed to bring in 1,724 units of Volkswagen, Alfa Romeo and Audi; Columbian Motors Corp. (500 units of Land Rover and Freelander), and Norkis and Daimler-Chrysler (1,500 Chrysler units).

Roxas said the BOI would tighten its monitoring of the import and sales performance of these companies particularly their compliance to the three conditions tied to their SKD licenses—shift to full CKD assembly within 18 months; generate additional net foreign exchange earnings; and registration of models under MVDP.



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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL right, it's none of my business, but I have a little misgiving about this cute administration of Gloriaetta. All it does is bitch about the shabby treatment it gets from foreign media. This only makes foreign media love kicking it around all the more.

And that is bad. The way I figure it, if foreign media keep on talking ill of this cute administration, the whole country suffers. You just don't attract investments that way! Such bad press abroad doesn't exactly make us desirable. I mean, for investments.

Look, as it is, we deem ourselves already lucky because some American cigarette company, hated by the public in its own country, puts up factories here, and our government officials even say we have the company to thank for lung cancer.

Thus, whether all those thousands of losing candidates—who, of course, were all cheated in the latest elections—like it or not, this cute administration must reach out to foreign media. Aren't you glad it is precisely starting to do that! Slowly! Very slowly!

Reports indicated Madam Gloriaetta just gave an exclusive interview to the Financial Times of London. That's a far cry from the interviews which, in the beginning, she gifted some locals who specialized in investigative reports on *kulam* and *aswang*.

***

STILL, based on reports about the Financial Times interview, Gloriaetta sounded a bit too defensive. She blamed an unnamed officer of PAOCTF for the public outrage over her administration's shabby treatment of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

It seems the PAOCTF officer sold to some media outfits video footages of Wrist Band as he went through the usual process when the police arrest your ordinary, day-to-day harmless criminals like kidnappers, rapists, murderers or drug traffickers.

In the strange logic of the Palace, all the trouble in the streets after Wrist Band's arrest was created by what it called an "enterprising" PAOCTF officer. Sure! And no fault lies on the media outfits that bought the tapes? And none on the police?

If, as Gloriaetta claimed, based on the Palace press statement on the Financial Times interview, all those mug shots and fingerprint-taking performed by Wrist Band were not meant for public viewing, why did the police even bother? Are they just plain stupid?

Last time I checked, all that so-called police procedures are done for keeping records. Thus, the term for the street thug as "*may 'record' na.*" Records are meant for identification. Sure, they needed fingerprints and mug shots to identify an ex-President!

***

WHAT, perhaps, I would have kicked a snotty foreign journalist in the face for, nevertheless, is a thorough discussion in the Financial Times, no less, featuring the "trained" economist Gloriaetta herself, centering on her economic program.

Let me repeat that—a THOROUGH discussion. Mostly what we hear these days, when it comes to our faltering economy, are some high-brow BS that have become cliches more tired than blaming the PAOCTF for everything that went wrong.

Every business conference must talk about . . . well, "reforms." Every public official from here to Jupiter must say a word on the impending economic . . . well, "recovery." Always, all of us must try to . . . well, "put our acts together."

Nowadays, if the government needs to do something, it always faces a "battle." Thus, it faces a "battle" in Congress for "reforms," which can "put our acts together" so that we can bring about the "impending economic recovery."

And for the life of me, I cannot explain why the business scene is littered with terms of violence. It's as if our businessmen are always looking for a fight. Listen to this, coming from an executive, describing a business conference:

"This is our way of saying that Philippine business has had a few setbacks, but we're rolling with the punches and will certainly stay in the ring, swinging with all we've got." Whew! Next thing you know, we'd be hearing some nuclear war metaphors!

***

THERE will always be people, both here and abroad, who will bore us with all their solutions to all our problems. Every foreigner knows just exactly what we have to do. Me, I don't take such suggestions very well. I can even lose friends easily.

Those snotty Singaporeans, among my foreign friends, particularly, when I see them, never fail to lecture me on how to perform an economic miracle. I know many of you have the same bad experience. I know that former Prime Minister Cesar Virata had.

One time, a Singaporean unabashedly told Virata to give Singapore an island in the Philippines. They (Singaporeans) could easily turn the island (somewhere in the Philippines) into the next economic miracle (of Asia).

But that was long ago, before the Asian financial meltdown of 1997. If I remember correctly, it was way back in the 1980s, when war was raging in Mindanao. It's hard to say if Virata had a mind to give Singapore the island called Basilan.

Here's one solution I heard, coming as it is from a Fil-Am. The Palestinians do not have a country, so we give them the Philippines, and we all go to the United States. Thus, there's peace in the Middle East, and we, Filipinos, instantly get rich.

Or at least we don't have to fall in line all day for visas anymore!

***

SINCE she took power from Wrist Band, Gloriaetta never really received kind words from foreign media. For one, they did not look kindly upon the way she gained power. Their perception is the exact opposite of that of the local media.

Gloriaetta still enjoys the support of local media, and there may or may not be wisdom in it, but I think it's mostly due to pride of authorship. She got into power, really, not with only a little help from local media!

She cannot just expect the same treatment from foreign media. When, for instance, trouble erupted in the streets following the arrest of Wrist Band, while reports here were kind to this cute administration, those done by foreign media outfits were not.

The PDI Wires, which reached the United States, for instance, mostly quoted the views of this cute administration. The wire reports from Dow Jones, in comparison, carried mostly the critical views against the administration. How do you explain that?

Unfortunately, the Dow Jones reports were the ones that usually reached the financial markets abroad. And this government says that it wants to raise billions of dollars overseas to cover the budget. How? Just by putting our ax together?

Globe, Nera sign $22-M deal

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has signed a $21.68-million deal with Norway's Nera Telecommunications Ltd. to expand its wireless network. The contract is part of Globe's $330-million "Phase 8A" expansion plan for the year.

Under the contract, Nera will install high-capacity microwave radios for Globe's Luzon and Visayas access network to complement its existing fiber optic core transmission network.

Microwave radio relay is the fastest and most cost-effective way to establish transmission networks because roads do not have to be dug up and there are no cables to physically lay.

Nera's transmission network serves as a pipeline that allows calls to be transported from different Globe cell sites to its base station controllers and network of mobile switches across the country. It is designed to enable Globe to meet the booming demand for capacity brought about by advances in wireless data technology and various other applications and services in wireless systems.

"We are confident that Nera's extensive experience in SDH (synchronous digital hierarchy) transmission technology will provide Globe Telecom with a leading edge in this highly-competitive industry," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

He added, "by expanding our partnership with Nera, we will be able to provide our customers with higher network capacity for faster voice and data transmission as well as prepare our system for future applications."

Nera currently has $6.1 million worth of contracts with Globe.

Globe is the telecommunications arm of the Ayala group operating the country's largest GSM (global system for mobile communications) network.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, May 21, 2001)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	15,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	77.5	77.5	75.5	75.5	820,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	45	45	43.5	43.5	75,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	211	212	210	211	122,400
Philippine National Bank	50	53.5	50	53	166,900
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	26	26	26	26	6,200
Security Bank Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.5	300
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	26	24.5	26	11,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	228	238	227	238	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1305	1300	1305	5,350
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1075	1080	1075	1080	4,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	3,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	680	680	4,610
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	36,000
Piltel	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	725	715	720	19,090
Ivantage Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.046	0.047	
118,600,000					
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41	41	41	38,300
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55.5	55	55	1,156,800
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.84	1,916,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	278,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.66	4,365,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.41	0.34	0.41	360,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,980,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	352,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	1,301,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	28	28	28	28	10,500
RFM Corp.	1	1	1	1	500,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	47	45.5	47	15,300
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	49.5	48.5	49	284,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	686,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	783,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	800
A. Soriano Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	35,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.24	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	12.5	10	12.5	700
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.36	1,217,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	60,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	66,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	24.25	24	24	101,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	270,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.06	2.06	2	2	208,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	87,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	370,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.5	7.2	6.5	7.2	44,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	320,000
Waterfront Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	130,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	630,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	600,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.2	3.55	3.2	3.55	695,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	690	695	690	695	2,300
Rlm Corp.-Pref.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com. Inc-Warrants	0.04	0.04	0.038	0.039	65,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	368,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	4,100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	470,000

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3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	820 000	
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150 000	100,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	350 000
6.	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		850 000
7.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		130 000
8.	CELEBRITY CLUB	210 000	200 000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	490 000	450 000
10.	CLUB FILIPINO	330 000	300 000
11.	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250 000	220 000
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000	400 000
13.	EVERGREST GOLF CLUB "A"		100 000
14.	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls Call
15.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	300 000	
16.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550 000	
17.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600 000	
18.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400 000	
19.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450 000	
20.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500 000	
21.	MANILA POLO CLUB	4 000 000	3,500,000
22.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850 000	
23.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	1,000 000	850.000
24.	MANILA YACHT CLUB	650 000	
25.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180 000	160 000
26.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200 000	
27.	MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	500 000	400 000
28.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Pls. Call	280 000
29.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Pls Call	
30.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Pls Call	600 000
31.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"		130 000
32.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240 000	
33.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250 000	
34.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500.000
35.	ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls Call
36.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100 000	
37.	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500 000	
38.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	1,100 000	
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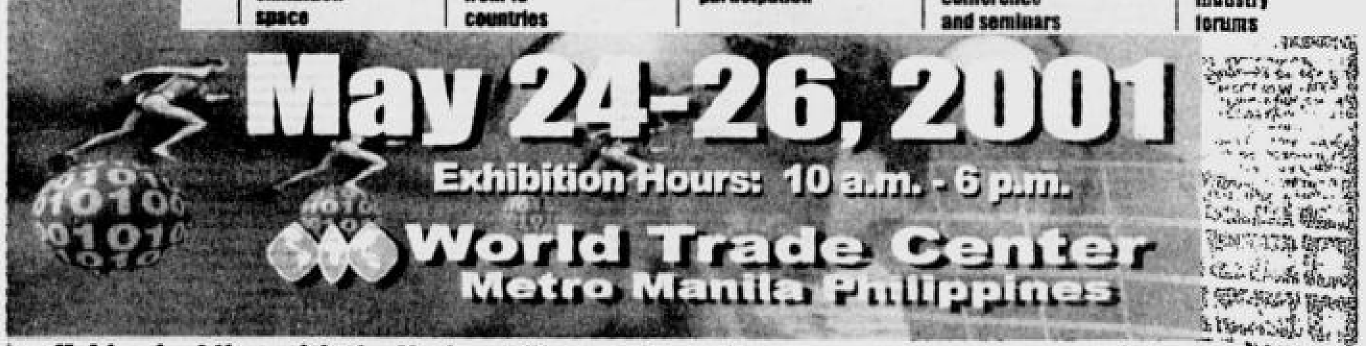

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE

May 24, 2001
THEME: S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRY
1:30 pm Roundtable Discussion
1:45 pm Industry Strengths
2:00 pm Industry Weaknesses
2:30 pm Industry Opportunities
2:45 pm Industry Threats /Challenges
3:00 pm Wrap up and Open Forum

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

May 24, 2001 (Thursday)
11:00-12:00nn "Integrating Your Business Through the Internet" by: Eastern Telecoms
1:00-2:00pm "TNT Global Logistics Solutions-Storspart" by: TNT International
2:00-3:00pm "Internet Traffic Management Solutions" by: Coverage Systems Technology
3:00-3:30pm "Content Distribution & Delivery Network (Streaming Technology)" by: Infolibria c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Critical Power Protection Systems & Solutions" by: MGE-Ups Systems Phils. Inc.
4:00-4:30pm "Building Futures with NetworkPlace" by: Getronics
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "Open Software & Cabling Systems" by: Automasion & Security Inc.
6:00-6:30pm "BuyUSA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 25, 2001 (Friday)
10:00-11:00am Ascendas: "Asia's Foremost Business Space Solutions Provider is Here in the Philippines" by: Acendas (Phils.) Corp./JTC
10:30-11:00am "Internet Traffic Management & Content Delivery Network" by: F5 Networks c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
11:00-12:00nn "Redundant Parallel Architecture Fact or Fiction!" by: Victron
11:30-12:00nn "Intelliwhere" (Geo-Space & Location-Space in Fixed & Wireless Industry: Multi-Dimensional Solutions) by: Intergraph Systems Sout-East Asia Pte. Ltd. (IGSEA)
12:00-1:00pm "Overcoming Barriers of Rural Telephony" by: Q-Telecel
1:00-1:30pm "Fiber Optic & Copper Cable Splice Cases" by: Preformed Line Products
1:00-2:00pm "e-Pay: The Prepaid Solutions" by: E-Pay Asia Philippines
2:00-2:30pm "Lyncole XIT Grounding System" by: Globaltek
2:00-3:00pm "E-conference" by: SolidVideo Corporation
3:00-3:30pm "iPlanet" by: Sun Microsystems
3:00-4:00pm "Cabling Solutions for the Future" by: Brand Rex (Microwarehouse)
3:30-4:00pm by: Sun Microsystems
4:00-4:30pm "Deployment of Fiber Infrastructure for Optimum Network" (Flexibility In High Capacity Backbone & Access Networks) by: Tyco Electronics Phils., Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Cost Effective Interactive White Board" by: Board Meeting Inc.
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "The Web Crisis Today" by: On-Line
6:00-6:30am "BuyUSA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 26, 2001 (Saturday)
10:00-11:00pm "High Availability DC Solutions for your Business Needs" by: American Power Conversion
11:00-12:00nn "What Should I Know About IBOC" (In-Bond on-Channel AM/FM Digital Audio Broadcasting) by: Active Comm
1:00-1:30pm by: Kinetic Solutions
1:00-2:00pm "Communication Solution through Technology" by: DB International
2:00-2:30pm by: Molex Premise Networks
2:00-3:00pm "Work & Play with AV" by: Audio Visual Driver
3:00-3:30pm by: Porta Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Wireless Broadband: Powering the Future of Data Communication" by: Meridian Telecom
4:00-4:30pm by: Wireless Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Alert Me Now! Your Messaging Companion" by: 25*8
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
6:00-6:30pm "BuyUSA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

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PNB recovery seen in 3 years

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO
AND ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE MACAPAGAL administration said yesterday it hoped to fully privatize Philippine National Bank in three years.

In an interview, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the government would re-acquire a majority stake in PNB and give itself three years to turn the bank around.

The plan would allow the government to achieve the twin objectives of rehabilitating the loss-making lender as well as to recover its "massive investment" in the bank, Buenaventura said.

"The plan is to sell PNB two to three years down the road at a better price once it has become profitable. Making PNB viable is good for everybody, and now the effort is concentrated on getting an agreement with (Lucio) Tan," he said.

Beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan now holds an 80-percent interest in PNB, but the bank has outstanding loans of about P25 billion from the central bank and the state-run Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which could be converted to equity.

Buenaventura said last week that Tan was "open to the idea" of the government retaking control of PNB.

The government has a 16-percent stake in the bank. The two parties made several attempts to auction off their joint stakes last year, but all these attempts failed due to unfavorable market conditions.

PNB reported a P5.973-billion net loss in calendar 2000 and a P2.01-billion net loss in the three months to March 2001.

Buenaventura stressed that the plan did not require the approval of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The government forfeited a World Bank banking sector rehabilitation loan after it failed to dispose of its PNB shareholdings.

However, "it is also equally important that they understand and accept our explanation," he said.

"I think they've come to the realization that what is really more important at this point is how to bring PNB back to its former viability and position, and therefore that must take precedence over the privatization."

Buenaventura stressed that PNB, which has a deposit base of P125.6 billion and end-1999 assets of P201 billion, was a very valuable franchise that was unfortunately mismanaged.

"But given the proper rehabilitation it could be again the premiere bank that it once was," he said.

Buenaventura said all the multilateral lenders wanted were two assurances.

"One, if we do a reverse privatization and I mean the government takes over, that they will let professionals run it and not political appointees.

"And No. 2, the government, once (the bank is) rehabilitated and brought back to viability and attract(s) a good price, will intend again to privatize it.

"We will have to do a reorganization. What form it will take, that is the point of discussion now (with the other shareholders)."

The Securities and Exchange Commission, meanwhile, asked PNB to explain why it should not be held liable for failing to disclose how many shares Tan directly or indirectly owned.

SEC Corporate Finance Department Director Justina Callangan said PNB, in its 2000 report, failed to disclose that Tan owned over 5 percent of the bank.

In a "definitive information statement" sent to the SEC, Tan was said to be the beneficial owner of 64.85 percent, or 245.16 million shares, of PNB.

Tan's holdings included shares held by Leadway Holdings Inc., 6.33 percent; Uttermost Success Ltd., 5.84 percent; Donfar Management Ltd., 5.46 percent; and Mavelstone International Ltd., 5.44 percent.

With a report from AFP

March bad loans ratio rises to 16.7%

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday that non-performing loans of local commercial banks rose to 16.69 percent of total loans by the end of March from February's 16.48 percent.

Buenaventura told reporters total loans of commercial banks climbed 5.5 percent on the year at end-March but declined 0.6 percent month-on-month.

"The NPL ratio has remained essentially the same. Even as bad loans decreased, this was offset by a sharper decline in total loan portfolio. It should more or less peak at these levels," he said.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the commercial banking system continued to feel the delayed impact of high interest rates and an economic slowdown in the fourth quarter.

"Borrowers are still hard-up and they are having a hard time paying their loans. And the economy has not fully recovered so loan growth has not picked up," Reyes said.

Clarissa S. Batino

Gov't to settle NSC dispute

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MALAYSIAN government and local creditor banks have agreed to allow the Macapagal administration to mediate in finally ending an 18-month standoff over the reopening of National Steel Corp.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the two parties agreed to submit separate proposals for the temporary reopening of NSC's Iligan steel factory pending the entry of a white knight that would undertake the long-term rehabilitation of the country's biggest steel maker.

Roxas said should the Malaysian government and the banks still fail to reach a common ground on the reopening of NSC, the government would step in and make the final decision.

Roxas said both parties agreed to abide by whatever the government would decide, and both promised not to file a case in court.

He said this agreement to put the issue practically under government arbitration was a major breakthrough in the long-running stalemate that had threatened to render as useless NSC's facilities for being left idle for too long.

Based on their discussions, Roxas said the two parties were divided on how to carry out the transition period before the long-term investor could come in.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of May 22, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	2 0M/2 1M *	2,150 000 *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	870 000	850,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A	100 000	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	400 000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please Call
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	210 000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	300 000	330 000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450 000	500 000*/700 000 **
EVERGREST A/B*	130 000 *	150 000/170 000 *
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120 000 *	90 000/150 000*/280 000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	290 000	300,000/350,000*/450 000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550 000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000/450 000 *	405 000/475 000 *
MT MALARAYAT A/C (w/lot)*	395 000	400,000/2 0 M *
MANILA POLO CLUB	3 500 000	4 000 000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/960,000 *	900,000/980 000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160 000	175 000/180 000 *
MIMOSA IND /CORP *	200 000/350 000 *	240 000/550,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600 000 **	330,000/425 000 *
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85 000	90 000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	130,000	Please Call *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230 000	235 000
RIVIERA A/B*	250 000	280,000/420 000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	645 000	650 000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100 000	120 000/150 000 *
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250 000	275,000/350,000*/450 000 **
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP *	250,000/400 000 *	Please Call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350 000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	460,000/1 1 M *	485,000/1 1 M *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850 000	875,000
VALLE VERDE IND	175,000	-
WACK WACK	-	10,000,000

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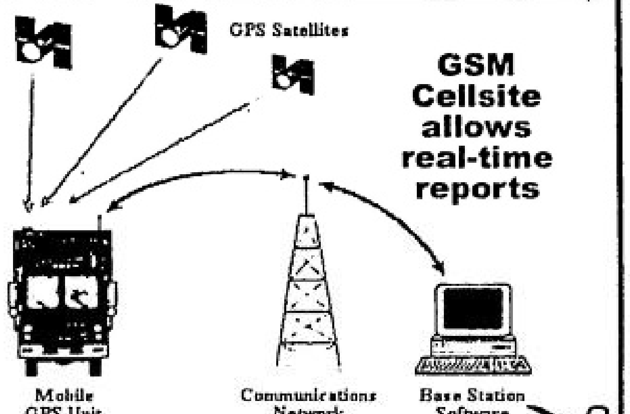

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QUEZON CITY

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AIC Gold Tower 2BR w/den FA159m^2 • 928-1469

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QUEZON CITY

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PIONEER 1BR [illegible]

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JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

ISUZU Frwd 6W P350T Vic 8903461 loc. 27 & 25

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC, BAC-ITR), invites qualified bidders by way of sealed bids for the supply and delivery of:

16	NOS	PRINTER, DOT MATRIX, 132 COLS., 24 PINS
6	NOS	PRINTER, HEWLETT PACKARD, DESK JET, COLORED
50	NOS	PRINTER, LASER, BLACK AND WHITE
10	NOS	COMPUTER SET, PENTIUM III, 600 MHZ (MINI.) BRANDED
2	NOS	COMPUTER NOTEBOOK
35	NOS	UPS, 500WATTS
1	NO.	FULL PRODUCT, OFFICE 2000 PROFESSIONAL
15	NOS	LICENSED, OFFICE 2000 PROFESSIONAL
1	NO	DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA
1	NO	PROFESSIONAL CAMERA
2	NOS	PAPER BINDER, HEAVY DUTY, MANUAL
2	NOS	PAPER CUTTER, HEAVY DUTY, MANUAL
4	NOS	TIME, DATE AND NLRC LOGO RECEIVING MACHINE, HEAVY DUTY
4	NOS	TIME AND ATTENDANCE RECORDER, ELECTRONIC, W/ BIOMETRIC TECH.
1	NO	PAYROLL SYSTEM SOFTWARE
2	NOS	PLAIN PAPER PHOTO COPIER
240	SQ.M.	PREMIUM CARPET, 100% POLYPROPYLENE BCF YARN, 20 OZ./SQ. YD, USA
1	SYS.	SOUND SYSTEM FOR NLRC CONFERENCE ROOM
1	NOS	TV COLORED, 35" SONY
1	NOS	VCD PLAYER/RECORDER, SONY
1	NOS	VHS PLAYER/RECORDER, SONY

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Executive Clerk, 7th Floor, PPSTA Bldg., No. 4, Banawe Ave. cor. P. Florentino Sts., Quezon City. Meeting/bidding will be held at the Conference Room, 6th flr. The bidding schedules are as follows:

JUNE 6, 2001, 10:00 A.M. - Pre bid meeting
JUNE 13, 2001, 10:00 A.M. - Last day of submission of prequalification requirements
JUNE 20, 2001, 10:00 A.M. - Last day of submission of bid proposals & Opening of bids

NLRC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as, waive any defect or informality on the bids received, accept the offer most advantageous to the government and does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) PERLITA B. VELASCO
Chairman, BAC, BAC-ITR

(PDI--May 21, 22 & 23, 2001)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila Pilipinas

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a bidding for the supply and delivery of 15 units HP BRIO PC PENTIUM III 733 MHz Business System per BSP specifications not later than 10:00 a.m. on June 5, 2001.

Subject to the submission of photocopies of the following documents (original of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes), bid documents may be obtained from the Manager I, Procurement Division I, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets Malate, Manila, Tel. No. 523-9463/525-0048.

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Latest Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement),
3. Latest Income Tax Returns,
4. Company history/profile of the bidder; and
5. List of local clients (complete with their addresses, telephone/fax numbers)

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be allowed to participate in the bidding. The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI – May 22, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair ROLEX Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

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OFC STAFF 9134470 [illegible]

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OFC STAFF ! Col grad/lev call MS. FAITH @ 7492993

•OFC Staff 9134470 Aynah

PUBLIC NOTICES

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IMade P1.1M in 60 days INeed 35Women To Train Ms. Tan 5250228/34

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

TShirt Sale 4383147

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late JOSE C. RECIO JR. was extrajudicially settled thru self adjudication by his heir as per Doc. #28 Page #7 Book #1 series of 2001 of Notary Public LILIA PILARES-DE VERA of Quezon City
(PDI-May 15,22 & 29,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jaime T. Dela Torre has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc.#419; Page#83; Book#X; Series of 2001 before Notary Public May Z. Redor of Tayabas, Quezon (PDI-May 22, 27, June 5, 2001)

RP lags behind neighbors in power reforms

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OUTGOING Energy Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho said yesterday neighboring countries were overtaking the Philippines in efforts to restructure the power sector.

"Our biggest concern is to make sure we are ahead of (the pack) in terms of attracting investors because we will have competition," Camacho told reporters.

However, Camacho said in a radio interview that foreign investors would stay away from the Philippines unless President Macapagal-Arroyo convinces Congress to pass the long-delayed power reform bill.

The bill seeks to sell off the generating assets of state-run National Power Corp. to the private sector, including foreign investors, in the process stanching a flow of red ink.

He said the trend of power restructuring was gaining momentum in Southeast Asia.

He said that while the Philippines had the most comprehensive plan on power industry reforms in the region, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were also moving for the privatization of their own state power firms.

The biggest competition over investors' attention, however, was South Korea. He added. South Korea was set to privatize its largest power company, the Korean Electric and Power Co.

"The whole world, especially investors from the United States and Europe, is looking at us," Camacho said.

A report that came out in the December issue of the Asean Center for Energy said all 10 members of the Asean had initiated power restructuring.

"It can be expected that all the (Asean) countries would have nearly fully restructured the power industry by 2010," the report said.

The ACE said Singapore would first complete reforms next year while Vietnam would finish behind the pack in 2010.

The ACE indicated that the Philippines was expected to complete its restructuring program by 2004.

CURRENCIES

May 21, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.135460	1.000000	50.3420
Japan	Yen	0.009197	0.008100	0.4078
United Kingdom	Pound	1.634155	1.439200	72.4522
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145581	0.128213	6.4545
Switzerland	Franc	0.651717	0.573967	28.8946
Canada	Dollar	0.741163	0.652742	32.8603
Singapore	Dollar	0.626807	0.552029	27.7902
Australia	Dollar	0.595667	0.524604	26.4096
Bahrain	Dinar	3.011992	2.652661	133.5403
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302765	0.266645	13.4234
Brunei	Dollar	0.627846	0.552944	27.8363
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000100	0.000088	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.024977	0.021997	1.1074
UAE	Dirham	0.309179	0.272294	13.7078
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000767	0.0386
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.880700	44.3362
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450295	22.6688
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134262	6.7590
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.399644	20.1189
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064003	3.2220
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021832	1.0991
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000455	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148123	7.4568
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004393	0.2212
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005293	0.2665
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021832	1.0991
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.118258	56.2953

Stocks . . . (From page B2)

Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	710,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	603,000
SM Development Corp	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	240,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	2,244,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.34	0.34	90,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	170,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	137,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	33,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.21	0.18	0.21	4,330,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.24	0.21	0.23	3,060,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	630,000

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All these super-value packages allow passengers to try Singapore Airlines' New Economy Class, which offers gourmet meals in all flights, free-flowing champagne, KrisWorld, the airlines' state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment system, and relaxing seats with footrests and new winged headrests.

These special offers are on from 1 June up to 31 July 2001, except for the Australian package which is available until 31 August 2001. For inquiries, passengers may call their travel agent or the SIA Tours Desk at 810-4960 loc 4005/4006, or visit the website at www.singaporeair.com/ph.

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express their deepest sympathies and condolences
to the bereaved families of:

Capt. Renato T. Marukot
Engr. Rodolfo C. Jastiva
Mr. Ramito G. Miraflores
Mrs. Lualhati T. Reyes
Mr. Deogracias C. Sta. Cruz, Jr.
Mr. Modesto G. Gilongos

who joined our Creator when their aircraft crash-landed in Sitio Mabunga, Barangay Manalo, Puerto Princesa City.

The company and its principals are one with the nation in praying for eternal repose of the souls of our departed friends and relatives.

Juana Vinluan Aquino

April 12, 1942 - May 19, 2001

Died in the grace of our Lord
on May 19, 2001 at the age of 59.

Her loving husband **Commo Jacinto Aquino**; children **Joyce** and **Roseller, Jasper** and **Maurin**, and **Jennifer** together with grandchildren **Jaymard** and **Jamila Mae**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, May 25, 2001 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, followed by an 8:30 AM Mass at Sto. Niño Parish Church.

JESUS V. CABINIAN

February 21, 1932 - May 18, 2001

His wife **Praxedes**; children **Purita, Josefino, Josefina, Judith, Romeo, Jaime, Jorge**; and grandchildren request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park (to be announced later). For details, please call 825-1296 Ext. 109.

GLORIOSO A. DEL MUNDO

October 15, 1934 - May 19, 2001

His wife **Modesta**; children **Romel** and **Marilyn** (†), **Rowel** and **Lanie**, **Luz** and **Jorge**, **Agnes** and **Richard**, **John**, **Irma**, **Michael**, **Melchor**; grandchildren **Camille, Eunice, Marc, Pauline, Mae, PJ, Rence, Macie, Ricci,** and **Christian** mourn with other relatives and friends his passing.

The body lies in state at the HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced later. For further details, please contact 825-12-96 loc. 107.

Our Dearly Beloved

RESURRECCION ORDOÑEZ SALAZAR

(Mamang Charing)

Widow of the late Arturo C. Salazar
of Sta. Maria, Pangasinan and Long Beach Ca.

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 16, 2001 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children **Venus S. De Leon**, **Thelma** (†), **Minerva S. Untalan**, and **Arturo Jr.**; their beloved spouses **Benjamin**, **Anselmo, Jr.**, and **Milagros**; brothers **Basanio**, **Romeo** (†) and **Orlando** (†); their respective wives **Lourdes**, **Josephine** and **Zenaida**; grandchildren **Marie Carmel**, **Frances** and **Mike**, **Rachel** and **Nick**, **Andrew**, **Gerard**, **Cyrille Mae**, **Ann Marie**, **Aileen** and **Adonis**; great grandchildren **Mikko**, **Angel** and **Bien**; and other relatives as well as friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at All Souls Mortuary and Cemetery, 4400 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, CA.

Memorial Services (viewing and rosary) will be held on May 23, 24 and 25, 2001 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Funeral Mass will be held on May 26, 2001 at 9:00 AM concelebrated by Fr. William Mclean and Fr. Arulraj Arputham.

Our Dearly Beloved Dodong

ANGELO VILLAMOR BALVERDE

Former Assistant Vice President of Philippine Airlines

Peacefully joined his Creator on Sunday, May 20, 2001
at 6:47 AM at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Esther**; dearest children **Boyet** and **Mirjo**; beloved sisters, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Charity Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati City and will be brought to Liloan, Cebu on May 24, 2001. Daily Masses will be offered at 8:00 PM.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 26, 2001 at Calero Memorial Estates, Liloan, Cebu after the 1:00 PM Mass at San Fernando Rey Catholic Church in Liloan, Cebu.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Message of Thanks

We the family and relatives of the late

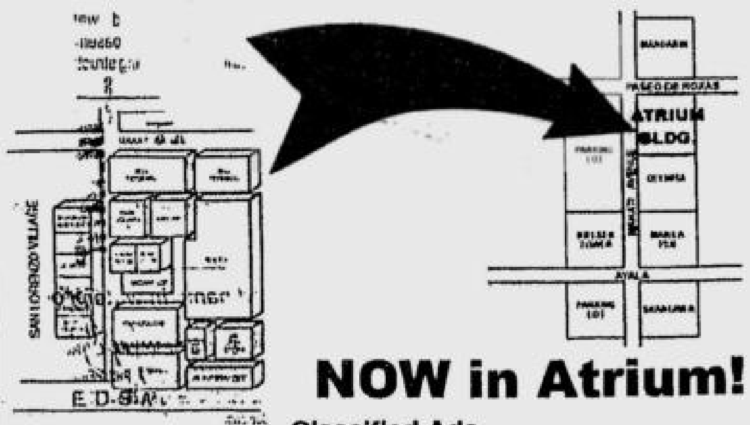
JOSE ANTONIO "JOEY" ALBERT VELEZ

who joined his Creator on May 8, 2001

are deeply grateful for the love and concern so manifested in your caring presence during his wake, at the Masses and his funeral. Thank you for Masses offered, prayers shared, gifts of food and flowers, and your comforting words.

We would have celebrated Joey's 53rd Birthday today. He celebrates it in God's presence forever.

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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Developers support home loan plan for nonsalaried workers

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association has expressed support to the government plan to open a new loan window for housing acquisition by workers who derive their income from sources other than from regular salaries and wages, and who are not members of either the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System or the Pag-Ibig Fund.

Reacting to initial consultations made on the draft of the proposed nonmember home financing program, Mariano D. Martinez Jr., SHDA national president, said the government move will further "democratize" the opportunity of homeownership, as it will further expand the coverage of the government housing loan program to the bigger sector of the citizenry who also needs housing assistance.

Under the proposed housing loan window, whose guidelines are subject of ongoing sectoral consultations before being finalized by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, loans of up to P500,000 per housing unit are proposed to be made available at 16-percent interest rate per annum for a maximum repayment period of 30 years, Martinez cited.

Also to be granted are loans of up to P180,000 at 9-percent interest rate; and up to P350,000 loan at a 12-percent interest rate.

The scheme also provides for loans to be originated by financial institutions to be accredited, which shall be secured by real estate mortgage; and by subdivision developers under the contract-to-sell system.

The loans, as proposed, may be used to purchase a residential lot; for the purchase of a lot and construction thereon of a new house; for the construction of a dwelling unit; for the purchase of residential unit, either newly constructed or over one year old; and for subsequent construction of a residential unit on a lot previously financed under this program.

Likewise, the purchase of a residential unit with an existing mortgage, provided that there are no other liens or encumbrances that will prejudice the easy transferability of the title thereon, is also allowed under the program, Martinez added.

SM Supercenter Sucat opens Friday

SM Supercenter Sucat will open its doors to the public on Friday. It will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to the south Metro area.

SM Supercenter Sucat, SM Prime Holding's 11th supermall, will open its doors to the public on Friday.

Located on Dr. A. Santos Avenue, formerly Sucat Road, at Barangay San Dionisio, Pasay City, the 67,000-square-meter, three-level shopping center will bring the SM malls' great shopping, leisure and entertainment experience to the south Metro area.

SM Supercenter Sucat's mall designer is Design International, a foreign-based group, with G & W Architects & Associates for its architects. Monolith Construction and Development Corp. is its general contractor and D.A. Abcede & Associates is its project manager.

Leading the shopping fun is the first Super SM hypermarket, an exciting new retail concept. A take-off from the European hypermarket concept which combines supermarket, general merchandise and discount retailing, Super SM offers customers super choices, super prices and super experience. It is designed to save customers' time and money through its one-stop shopping convenience features like wide aisles, customer-friendly display racks and efficient check-out service with more than 50 lanes.

Enhancing the shopping experience are the SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, Surplus Shop and Health and Beauty outlet as well as a hundred tenants. The latter include fashion boutiques, home furnishing stores, service outlets, jewelry stores and specialty shops.

The mall's third level likewise has a row of IT stores to serve cyber-inclined customers. These range from computer stores to Internet cafés and service providers. Major telecommunications providers like Smart and Globe also have outlets within the mall.

Eating-out options include the SM Food Court, where one can get good food fast, as well as well-known fast-food chains and restaurants. The latter include Jollibee, McDonald's, Chowking, KFC, Pizza Hut, Tokyo Tokyo, Goldilocks, Max's, Delifrance, Greenwich, Red Ribbon, Dunkin Donuts and Auntie Anne's.

Great leisure and entertainment also await shoppers at the mall's four state-of-the-art cinemas and its amusement centers. It will have more than 1,000 open and covered parking slots for its customers

Homebuilder does something about termites

THE PARABLE speaks of a wise man who built his house upon the rock; the rains came and the floods rushed in but the house stood still. Ela Dillague of Dow AgroSciences believes that Brittany Corp. is a wiser builder because it goes a step further by protecting its houses with the phenomenal Sentricon system, the antitermite technology that has been taking the pest control industry by storm.

Brittany, pioneering leader in themed master-planned residential communities, broke new ground as it inked a deal with the first authorized operator of Sentricon system in the Philippines, Sanitech, to install the revolutionary technology in various Brittany housing projects.

Brittany is six years old and already, its luxury development projects have spurred the growth of Southern Metro Manila and its surrounding areas. In Sta. Rosa Laguna, there's Belle Reve, a French-style enclave; Promenade, an English-inspired garden community; Fontamara, Italian-inspired exclusive residence of only 60 families; and La Residencia de Sta. Rosa, a garden country with a high-value appreciation of 200 percent. Nestled in Tagaytay is Brittany's Crosswinds, a charming American country-style village and in busting Cavite, the impressive La Residencia de Bacoor.

New concept in housing

Enthuses Brittany president Jerry Navarette: "What would set us apart from the rest of our competitors? House design is something that can easily be copied. Technology is also something that can be adopted by others but we are proud that we initiated this project. We created a new concept in housing called Advantage Home wherein we tried to incorporate benefits other than the usual frills that developers offer. This time, we focused on the basics, on what is essential."

It's true what they say about the essential being invisible to the naked eye. Termite proofing, Navarette states, is easily most forgotten since pest infestation is not immediately evident. But when termites start gnawing through beams and walls, through priceless art pieces and the entire kitchen, homeowners have no choice but to take notice. And usually, it's already too late.

Noel de Guia, president of Sanitech, says that as far as home and property owners are concerned, termites are creatures from hell that mercilessly devour hard-earned investments. He narrates an unforgettable experience involving a San Pablo resident who suffered a mild heart attack after discovering that a family heirloom, a handwritten Bible, was reduced to a pile of powder.

Noel's wife and business partner Jenny de Guia remembers the daughter of a real estate developer who lost irreplaceable mementos of her dear father—photographs, short notes and loving letters—to vicious termites.

The only choice

According to the Sanitech operators, Sentricon system was the only choice for the Brittany termite-proofing job. "There's no other pest control technology to trust. In the themed-housing industry, Brittany is considered to be the best World-class projects require world-class suppliers so we teamed up with Sentricon," De Guia says

Prevention is better than cure, especially in real estate development. During the construction, Brittany and Sanitech will set up Sentricon stations around and in the properties to guard homes against nasty critters

The Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System from Dow AgroSciences takes advantage of natural termite behavior and acts like an early warning device and a treatment method. The US-based termite terminator works in three steps:

- An authorized pest control professional places Sentricon monitoring stations in the soil around your house, checking these regularly for signs of termite activity.
- When the termites begin to feed in the station, the Sentricon technician replaces the monitoring device with a Baitube device that contains termite bait (the substance prevents them from molting, so that they are unable to grow, causing them to die). The termites unsuspectingly summon their nest mates to the site by leaving a scent trail leading back to the bait.
- Once the colony is eliminated, the bait will be replaced with new monitoring devices, which the Sentricon technician will inspect closely and regularly for renewed termite activity.

The bait material in Sentricon, hexaflumuron, was the first pest control product in the United States to receive "fast track" registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new "Reduced Pesticide Risk" category. Last year, Sentricon was awarded the US President Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe.

Antitermite system

While developers typically include termite proofing in preconstruction, Brittany cares enough to install an antitermite system that is famous worldwide for being effective, odorless, absolutely nondisruptive, environment-friendly and safe which makes it ideal for homes and hospitals, drugstores and food establishments, schools and libraries, museums and warehouses, clubhouses and high-rise buildings. Dillague of Sentricon-Philippines declares, "Installing Sentricon system in your property is a small investment to take care of your bigger one."

Michelle Payuyo, marketing and sales head of Brittany Corp., says that for most Filipinos, if not all, the home is one of their biggest investments, "so image selling them a lemon that they will live in for 15-20 years." She continues, "It's really about building with a conscience, building with a heart. It's the same thing everywhere else but rarely can you find a developer that would anticipate homeowners' needs, and actually do something about them even before it starts building their homes."

Glasswool makes perfect insulation sense

DISTRIBUTORS of so-called insulation products such as reflective aluminum sheets with air bubble layer and the plastic-backed PE foam are taking advantage of the hot summer season to sell their unproven merchandise to unsuspecting consumers, even going to the extent of providing the public with false information on legitimate insulation materials such as glasswool. A consumer, when confronted with this kind confusion, needs only to exercise his common sense to arrive at a correct decision. More imperatively so if he believes that his hard-earned money deserves something of equal value,

Because no salesman would speak ill of his product, the first thing that a potential buyer should find out is: Who will guarantee this product's claim? While their distributors claim both—the reflective aluminum sheets and the PE foam—to have high insulation value, they do so without the benefit of controlled laboratory tests in the presence of independent bodies.

Credibility

To boost credibility, an aluminum sheet distributor has even gone to the extent of inviting mall-goers to an uncontrolled comparative testing between its reflective material and glasswool, making people to believe that the former is the superior product because it reflected beamed light while the latter did not. However, they knowingly hid the fact that reflective insulation works only in conjunction with an air space. When installed between the roof and the purling, the aluminum sheet barely has a few inches of air space to work with and very little light to reflect in the first place. Because the consumer does not get what he is made to believe he will, he is practically robbed of his money. On the other hand, glasswool, made by Asia Pacific Insulation Corp. (Apic) and sold under the brand names Flexicool, Econoroll and Building Blanket, has a high insulation value as tested under laboratory conditions. In fact, it has the quality approval of ISO 9002, UL and ASTM, among others. Glasswool works by trapping heat and preventing it from penetrating to the house's interior—the very concept of insulation.

Reputation

Another simple question that a consumer needs to ask is: What kind of reputation does the product and its distributor enjoy? The aluminum sheet with air bubble layer has been in existence for quite some time now yet not as a home insulation but as a car interior reflective cover. It is only recently that it has been marketed as a residential product. The PE foam, meanwhile, is a ball of fire waiting to happen. Made from oil-based low-density polyethylene resin, the PE foam, because of its closed-cell structure, is more suited for cold applications than as insulation against heat. On the contrary, Glasswool, for decades, is being used all over the world as a top-of-the-line insulation material. Apic, a local manufacturer of glasswool, has enjoyed the reputation of quality and credibility for more than 25 years. In fact, its client base stretches as far as the Asia-Pacific region.

Total value

Finally, the consumer should ask himself: What will my family and I get in the long run? The reflective property of the aluminum sheet, given that it works in such limited air space, shall diminish as soon as dust and grime accumulate over its surface, perhaps in as short as a few months unless someone will take the hassle of periodically removing the material from the purlin just to clean its surface. Whatever insulative property PE foam has does not even remotely justify the danger it poses. At any rate, PE foam when subjected to the elements of nature will disintegrate in a few months if and when fire does not destroy it first. On the other hand, Apic considers the consumer money as its investment, not as easy profit, and thus reciprocates them with total value. Glasswool for a one-time installation will last and work for an entire lifetime. With less heat, reliance on electric fans and air-conditioning units is greatly reduced. In the long run, the savings on electric bills will be more than enough to pay for the insulation itself.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR ON:
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Venue : AIM Conference Center, Acceed Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Presented by: (PABA & CMAP)
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INSULAR LIFE INAUGURATION
The Insular Life Corporate Centre, the newest headquarters of the country's first Filipino life insurance company located at the Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, was recently inaugurated with Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., right, leading the ceremonial rites. Also shown are' Insular Life chair and president Vicente Ayllon and wife Annie as well as Insular Life trustee Johnny Araneta, partly hidden. Other guests are representatives from government, business sector, the insurance industry and the company's roster of clients.

CAMP JOHN HAY

The place to be this summer

THE AMBIENT Air Quality Monitoring Section of the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR-CAR recently showed that the air around Camp John Hay remains in good condition.

According to engineer Fermin Weygan, chief of the Environmental Quality Division of the EMB, the ambient air quality in Camp John Hay yielded a result of only 41.53 ug/Nem, which is very much lower than the allowable standard limit of 230 ug/Nem, or the treshhold of what we can consider as healthy air.

Forest management program

CJH Development Corp. continues to implement its forest management program to ensure not just clean air but a healthy environment in general. It has initiated the environmental management plan (EMP) for the eco-tourism project in Baguio City.

Currently being implemented in the forest and watershed management program under the EMP which includes reforestation (about 20,162 tress have been planted), seedling production and nursery maintenance and construction of check dams to propagate water resources retentive species. An integrated waste management system will also be put in place

Eco-tourism site

Camp John Hay, which is open to the public, is moving toward its billing as an eco-tourism site with something for everyone regardless of age, inclination or even budget.

For convenience, development and activities are organized in 12 "clusters" (golf course, cottages, corporate seminars, multifamily units, mixed class accommodations, international, Cordillera, Filipino Center, active recreational, village center, historical and service.

CJHC chair Robert John Lamb Sobrepeña aptly puts it: We are making a world-class eco-tourism destination for everyone.

It is only in Camp John Hay with its intact 175 hectares of pine forest and Baguio's cool climate that you can still take log walks on foot trails amid tall pine trees and be surrounded and embraced completely by fog.

Commercial strip

Camp John Hay will also open a commercial strip inside the 250-hectare world-class eco-tourism project. The commercial mall will complement the 189-unit CJH Manor that will operate as a first-class hotel very soon and the 27 country homes, log homes which are already turned over to their owners.

The commercial strip at present houses the John Hay commissary, a duty-free shop.

Ongoing is the construction of known commercial establishments inside the strip such as Strumms and Dencio's Grill. Now operational are billiard halls, The Club Cellar and Camp Nike.

Away from the pollution and traffic, one can enjoy the site in John Hay by the "Shalanan ni Kabadjo," a horseback-riding service that recently took off at the former skeet range. Riders are treated with the breathtaking views of the Camp John Hay landscape. They are assured of their safety as safety personnel patrol the trail. All riders are likewise insured with CAP Life for the duration of the ride.

A 2.5-km nature-hiking trail is another plus this season. Trekking through the pine forest of Camp John Hay is a nature lover's delight. This is an activity for the whole family to enjoy while communing with nature.

Real estate goes text messaging

AYALA Land Inc. is joining forces with myAyala and subsidiary companies Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. and Cebu Holdings Inc. to launch Project: textALI--a first in the local real estate industry.

Project: textALI is a short messaging system (SMS) that allows brokers quick access to updated and accurate data on various projects such as availability status, prices, lot and unit details, payment terms and amenities. It involves sending predefined text messages to certain Globe and Smart numbers.

Top officials of the three companies signed the contract formalizing Project: textALI last month. They were ALI assistant vice president Al Legaspi, CHI vice president Francis Monera, ALI sales and marketing services group VP Ma. Victoria E. Añonuevo, LPHI senior vice president Ricky Isla and myAyala VP Teodoro Limcaoco.

Turning dream into reality

OWNING a lot or a house and lot in Tagaytay is not just a dream. You can turn this dream into reality.

Treat your family and friends to a relaxing and refreshing cool climate as you take them to a ride to visit Taal Lake, Flower Farm, Picnic Grove and Palace in the Sky. Enjoy nature's bounty right at your doorstep.

Opportunity now comes to you to own a lot or house and lot at Tagaytay Country Homes III. This residential subdivision is located at Barrio Silang Crossing, just a few meters away from Tagaytay City Welcome Rotonda. Truly a lasting investment, Tagaytay Country Homes III is provided with concrete main and secondary roads with curb and gutter; sidewalk with planting strip; underground drainage system;basketball and tennis courts; entrance gate with guard house; electricity by Meralco; Tagaytay City Water District water supply, with elevated tank and underground reservoir.

Tagaytay Country Homes III is a project of Cityland, a trusted name in the real estate industry for more than 20 years.

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Architects group spearheads heritage conservation drive

DEAN Java, center, receives the first prize in the Spanish Colonial Period category, "Gawad Pamanang Arkitektura 2001" award from UAP national president Prosperidad C. Luis, FUAP, left, and UAP-CFA executive director Cristina V. Turalba. She shares honors with students of the University of San Carlos College of Architecture.

LEADING lights in the architecture profession are into something which future generations of Filipinos will be grateful about. They are in the forefront of a noble effort to conserve heritage structures and sites that are slowly disappearing due to the onslaught of globalization, commercialization and general apathy and neglect.

Spearheading this campaign that started October last year is the United Architects of the Philippines-Center for Filipino Architecture in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and Arts.

In support of the drive, the UAP-CFA headed by executive director Cristina V. Turalba launched the "Gawad Pamanang Arkitektura 2000," a nationwide competition on the documentation and conservation of heritage sites and structures. Architects as well as heritage structure enthusiasts joined the contest. Thirty-one out of the 431 entries made it to the finals.

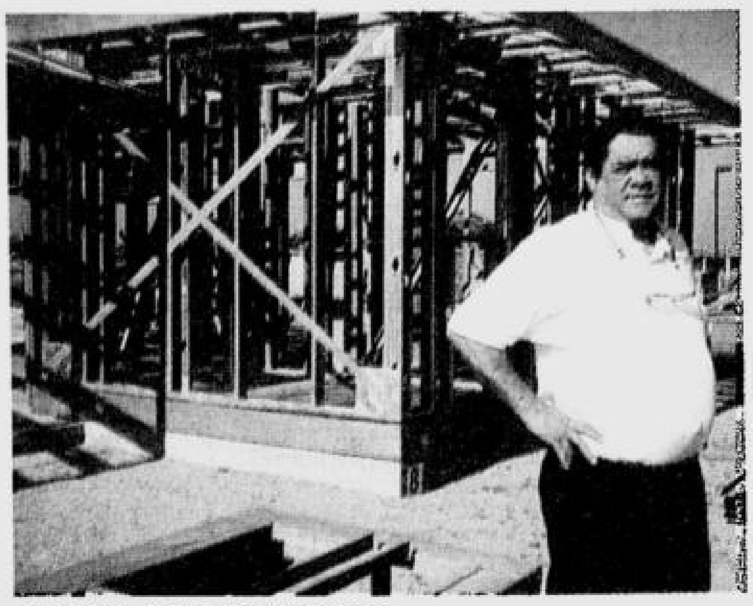
The competition was intended to produce quality documentation of various building typologies such as institutional, commercial, residential, recreational, industrial, landscape and urban design. Excluded were Spanish colonial religious structures such as churches and convents.

So successful was the initial outcome that those adjudged winners were duly recognized and given awards at the 27th UAP national convention held April 21 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The board of judges was chaired by Dr. Geronimo Manahan, FUAP, with Dr. Honrado Fernandez, FUAP; Edson Cabalfin, UAP; Rodino Bernardo, FUAP and Clarissa Avendaño, UAP; as members.

Top winners of the Gawad Pamanang Arkitektura 2001 are the following:

1 Grand Prize—UAP Bulacan Chapter, architect Robert Benedict Hermoso, UAP, for the outstanding documentation of the Santos House located in Malolos, Bulacan.

- First Prize: Spanish Colonial Period category—UAP-Cebu Chapter, Dean Melva Java, FUAP, with the University of San Carlos College of Architecture and Fine Arts students Gloria Mae Barrido, Mark Ryan de Villa, Kristine Gay Duceo, Rosalyn Pardillo, Sherwin Ramosa and Kristoferson Ventures for the extensive documentation of Casa Noel in Carcar, Cebu.
- First Prize: American Colonial Period category—UAP-Cebu Chapter, Dean Melva Java, FUAP, with the University of San Carlos College of Architecture and Fine Arts students under the supervision of architect Maria Lizeta Uy-Augusto, Cogina Elias, Espina Casicas and Young for the extensive documentation of St. Catherine's College in Carcar, Cebu



AITECH ACCREDITATION

Diamond Head Global Corp., a US company based in Los Angeles, California, with a registered Philippine office, got accredited for the Diamond Head Homes Steel-Framed Building System under Aitech Accreditation 2001-001 of the National Housing Authority. Diamond Head president and CEO Darrell M. Sabihon said, "The company is now more comfortable doing business with the system duly registered and accredited with the housing authority." The system uses K-Lath Double-Wire US product for panel. Sabihon believes the compliance will definitely put people in a more safe and decent housing units. The accreditation further boosts Diamond Head Homes' commitment toward sustainable development and building a better world that will stand the test of time and quality in the housing industry.

Ortigas Center's tallest structure opens May 26

THE 54-STORY One San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center's tallest structure, will be inaugurated on May 26 and promises to be the trendsetter in modern high-rise condominiums with its awesome and grandiose architect and engineering, according to architect Philip H. Recto and its owner and developer, Amberland Corp.

Located right at the center of Pasig City, One San Miguel Avenue is custom-built to cater to the fast-paced and multi-faceted demands of modern-day offices as dictated by young executives, professionals and captains of the industry.

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Skycity to mark RP in world map

THE SKYCITY will do the country proud when it will finally rise from the ashes of controversy.

In a landmark decision by the special division of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board in Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board case REM-A-000208-0024 promulgated only on March 20, the board upheld in toto the decision of the expanded national capital region field office dated Nov. 24, 1999, to grant the Skycity its long-delayed development permit.

The Skycity is a proposed 77-story condominium building designed and constructed by E. Ganzon Inc., a pioneer in condominium development in the country Expected to rise at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, it will place the country in the map as having one of the tallest buildings in the world. The delay in its construction was due to the vigorous objection of the Greenhills East Homeowners Association Inc., which filed the complaint against this project every Filipino can be proud of.

Citing legal authorities, particularly pertinent provisions of the National Building Code, Metro Manila Zoning Ordinance 81-01 and Mandaluyong City Ordinance 128, series of 1996, and technical data, particularly on floor area ratios, the board affirmed that a tall building in a C-2 zone in the case at bar did not violate height restrictions, dismissing the nuisance complaint of a pressure group in a different, residential zone. This now paves the way for the completion of other requirement so that finally the project can provide employment, cause a "multiplier" effect on related construction industries and provide investors with attractive returns for their money. The project can also stimulate real estate and other businesses as well as generate taxes to the government that could translate into social and basic services to the public.

The resumption of the Skycity's construction should soon be a boon to the economy. The Skycity is a tribute to Filipino ingenuity. The design, technical details and features of the building make it easily the most environment friendly "city within the city." Conceived by a team of Filipinos led by engineer Eulalio Ganzon, the structure was describe by a world-renown architectural designer as "a stroke of engineering genius."

Quintin heads realtors foundation

QUINTIN

REALTOR Zacarias Quintin, a developer and business executive, was recently elected president of the Philippine Realtors Foundation Inc., an organization campaigning for professionalization of realty service in the country.

Quintin, who has conducted lectures in various local real estate boards, is a member of the board of trustees of the Socialized Housing Foundation Inc. of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association and the president of the Bayanikasan Research Foundation. He served as Philippine Association of Real Estate Boards (Pareb) president in 1997. He also heads the Corinthian School in Bocaue, Bulacan.

Under his administration, Quintin seeks to introduce, in coordination with Pareb, a training program for incoming national and local board officers that will equip them with tools of effective leadership and governance. He envisions this through the establishment of a training institute under the auspices of the PRFI. He also aims to create a realtor's library in its headquarters.

Also elected were Realtors Herbert Buot of Cebu Realtors Board, vice president; Victor Benavides, San Juan-Mandaluyong Board, secretary; Ma. Teresa Antonio, Pasay-Makati Realtors, treasurer; Leticia Yu, Rizal Board of Realtors, auditor; Louie Serquina, Marikina Valley Realtors Board, public relations officer.

The members of board of trustees this year are Realtors Ramon P. Tioseco, Eleuterio P. Ongvano, incumbent Pareb president Antonio Constantino, Myrna A. Tort, Cesar A. Arnaldo, Ernie dela Rosa, Aurora dela Vega and Jess Sarmiento.

The board chair is former Pareb and PRFI president Realtor Oscar P. Garcia of Capitol ((Quezon City) Realtors Board. The council of advisers is composed of Pareb past presidents Juan Dayag, Geronimo Manzano, Lolita Manuel, Victorio V. Soliven and Gov. Rodolfo Valencia.

The Philippine Realtors Foundation complements the Pareb in enforcing strict adherence to the Realtors Code of Ethics. It distinguishes the patented service mark "Realtor" as an exclusive title extended to Pareb members by the National Association of Realtors of the United States.

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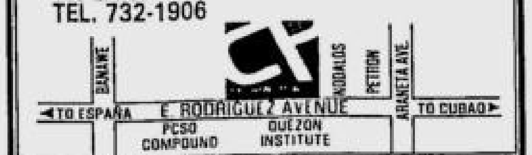

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Realistic expectations about exercise

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

IT'S a pity that the benefits of exercise are not evident right away because many people stop working out before they really see what exercise can do for them. If only exercise deliver the same instant gratification the way having a massage or getting your hair done does, more people would probably exercise.

It doesn't help either that some people who sell exercise equipment or exercise programs make false promises like "flat abs in just three minutes a day." Yeah, right! No wonder people quit exercising prematurely. They have unrealistic expectations of what working out can do for them. Someone once said to me that life's greatest disappointments are due to unfulfilled expectations. If people knew what they could realistically expect when they exercise, they wouldn't be so disappointed and they would stick to their exercise programs until they reaped the true benefits of being in shape.

The problem is many people expect miracles. Sometimes they want to look like someone else who has a totally different body type from their own. Or they envy the body of someone who is 20 years younger. Or if their goal is achievable, they don't realize the price they have to pay. I remember a male client who asked me how come he didn't have washboard abs in spite of exercising regularly for a few years. When I explained to him what bodybuilders have to go through to achieve that type of muscular definition, he decided life wouldn't be fun anymore and he decided to be satisfied with his body, which was a far cry from what he had before he started working out.

> Many expect miracles but if they'd stick to their exercise programs, they could reap the benefits of being in shape

Don't focus only on appearance

It's a known fact that the majority of people who start exercising do so for vanity or appearance. Nothing wrong with this, but if you focus on the other benefits that exercise can give you, you will be more motivated to keep on exercising while your appearance-based results have not started to kick in yet. Even if you cannot see inside your body, good things start to happen when you exercise. These are physiological changes like a lowered resting heart rate (meaning your heart has gotten stronger), more mitochondria (the part of your cells that produces energy), better blood pressure (if you have hypertension), improved blood sugar levels and increased sensitivity to insulin (if you are diabetic), etc. Things like your heart rate and blood pressure can be easily kept track of so you can "see" the results your exercise is bringing you.

Performance-based results are much easier to keep tabs on and can be quite motivating. Take note of how many minutes and at what intensity you could do your aerobic exercise before you started exercise and again after six weeks.

You will be surprised at how much you can improve (especially if you have been sedentary for a long time). Find out the difference in the amount of weight you can lift, how flexible you have become or how many abdominal crunches you can do. Even the difference between how you do the exercise or an improvement in coordination is something to celebrate.

There are also mental and psychological results that you cannot measure objectively, but you can "feel" them. Are you sleeping better? Do you find yourself to be more relaxed and cheerful since you started exercising? Are you more alert and have clearer thinking? These are just some of the simple but profound benefits that exercise can bring you.

Why you lose more in inches than in pounds

If you are exercising mainly to lose weight, you need to realize that it is normal to lose more in inches but not so much in pounds if you are doing any type of resistance exercise (dumbbells, barbells, machines, cables, ankle weights, rubber bands and body-weight exercises like yoga, Pilates, etc). Muscles get heavier and denser while fat cells shrink.

Don't feel bad if this is happening to you. This is a wonderful sign that you are changing your body composition and becoming a leaner you. The more muscle you have, the faster your metabolism will be. So don't lose sleep that the scale doesn't seem to be budging. Who cares as long as your clothes are getting looser and you have less bulges. If you have a lot of weight to lose, the pounds will eventually start dropping off because it's difficult to continue gaining in muscle weight unless you continue lifting heavier weights. But if you don't have much weight to lose, it is very possible that you will drop a few sizes but not change your weight or even gain a few pounds (of muscle, of course!).

Strength before muscle growth

If you are a male trying to get bigger muscles, it is normal to have a marked improvement in strength (the amount of weight you can carry), but a small improvement only in muscle size. This can go on for a few weeks or a few months before the muscles start to grow. The reason you are getting stronger without getting bigger is because muscle fibers that have never been stimulated before are "waking up." Don't worry. This is temporary. If you have a solid muscle-building program (including proper nutrition and rest), your muscles will eventually reach their genetic size potential.

TUMMY Tone
3 MINUTE WONDER

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

You have heard of the saying "Rome wasn't built in a day." Well, it's the same for your body. You can't undo years of being a sofa slug overnight. If you do it the right way, meaning the safe way, you should start exercising by doing only what you are capable of and a little more. That "little more" is what will challenge your body to improve.

As time goes on, that "little more" will become "a whole lot more." People who could hardly climb two flights of stairs without huffing and puffing can eventually progress to running full speed on a treadmill or even joining a marathon. The key is to do it gradually and progressively. Unfortunately, this takes time. And the older you are, the more time it takes.

If you do it the wrong way, meaning the impatient "I want to see results and I want to see them now" way, you will wish you never started exercising because you will feel like you were beaten black-and-blue by someone who hates you. And that's the good news. The bad news is you can seriously hurt yourself. You could actually pull a muscle or tear a ligament.

The first four to six weeks are called the "initial conditioning stage." You are basically preparing your body so you can start to really exercise. This doesn't mean that you won't see results in this stage, but just don't expect to see a flabby behind turn into "buns of steel" or expect a big drop in body weight. And this is exactly what the problem is.

Many people are focused only on appearance-based results instead of the other kinds of results, which are just as important if not even more important.

In general, you should see a small improvement in four to six weeks and a bigger improvement within three to six months. This is assuming, of course, that you are doing at least three sessions a week, you are exercising at the highest intensity that you can safely do, you are doing the right exercise for your goals (don't expect hard firm upper body muscles if all you do is ride a bicycle), and you are eating the right amount of calories.

For past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

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Enroll in a LaserLight Hair Removal programme now & get a BONUS Lasertone programme - absolutely FREE!
Remove your unwanted hair permanently and remarkably reduce lines and wrinkles at the same time at NO EXTRA COST! So you get double value for your money. Don't miss it! ENROLL NOW!
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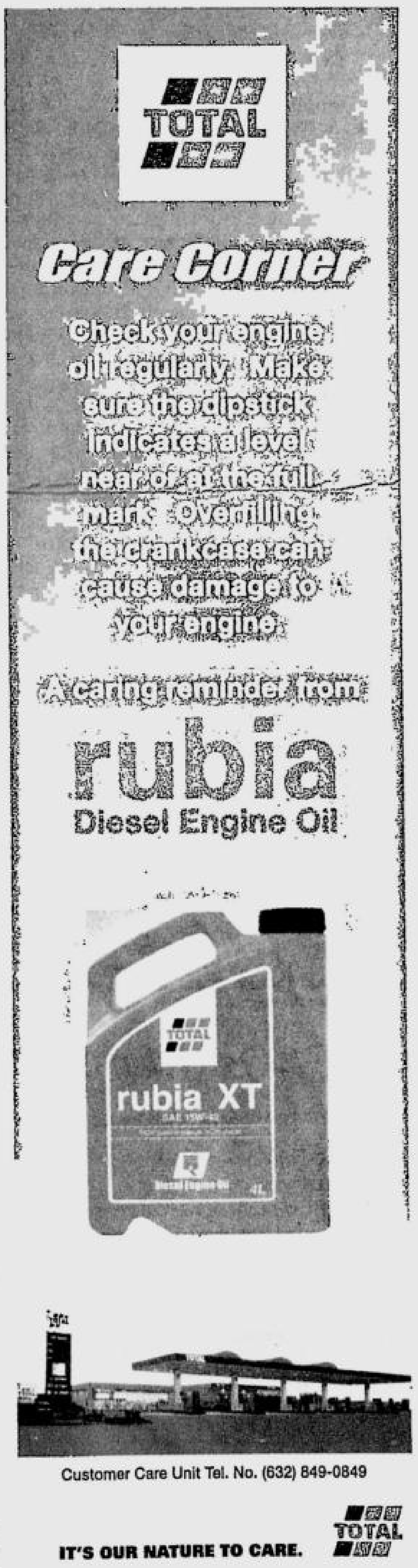
ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #0599 Series of 2001
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)


TOTAL
Care Corner
Check your engine oil regularly. Make sure the dipstick indicates a level near of at the full mark. Overfilling the crankcase can cause damage to your engine.
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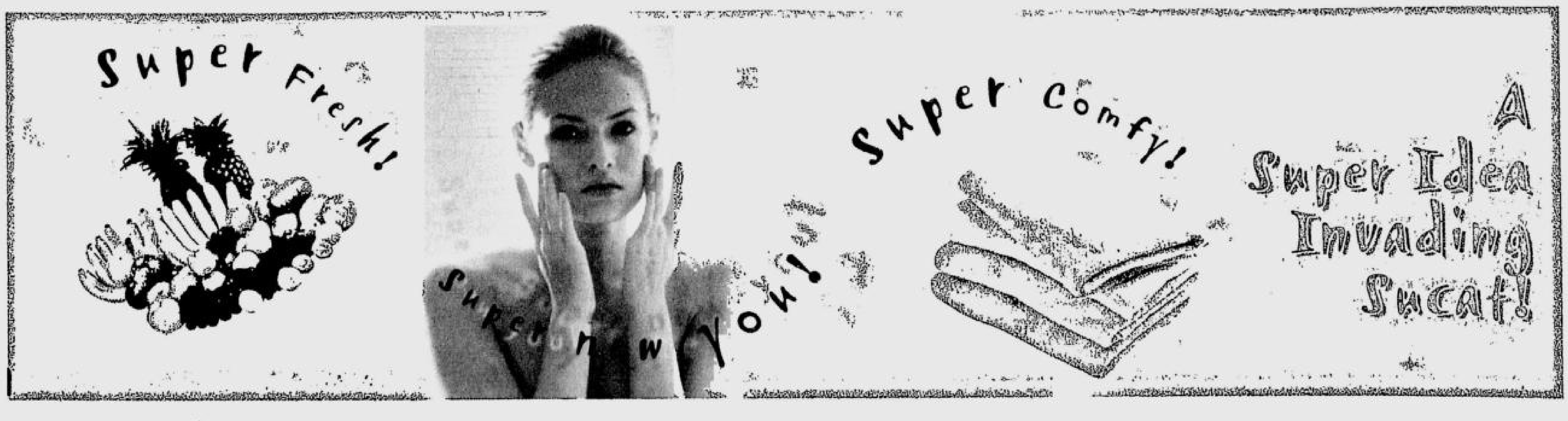
Super Fresh!
Super new You!
Super Comfy!
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EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

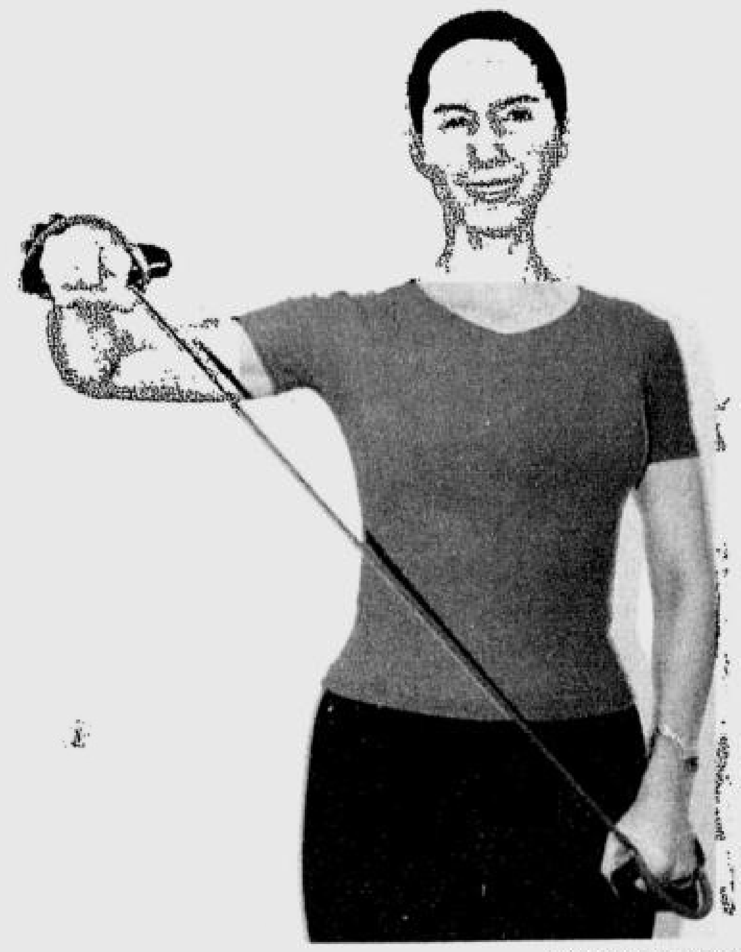


PHOTO: CHITO VECINA

Pull down with rubber band

Tones the *latissimus dorsi* or sides of the upper back.

Equipment:

Three to 5 ft long rubber bands that you can purchase at sporting good stores. You can make your own by buying rubber bands used for slingshots at a hardware store or market. You can also use surgical tubing, which you can buy at a drugstore. If you need to shorten the band for more tension, make sure to loop it loosely around your hand. Always check your rubber band for tears before using it. As you get stronger, you can use two rubber bands instead of one.

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with legs shoulder width apart and knees slightly bent.
2. Raise both arms overhead. Hold one arm stationary while you pull down with the other arm.
3. Slowly return to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Start the downward pulling movement by pretending you are squeezing a small ball in between your armpit and the side of your upper body.
2. Pull your elbow downward and not sideways.
3. Keep the movement in the front of the body. Do not try to pull the rubber band behind your neck.

Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions on each side. Rest. Do one or two more sets if you want to.

Nike introduces new indoor game

FUTSAL, a.k.a. *futbol de sala* or indoor soccer, is now in Philippines, thanks to Nike. The popular indoor activity in Europe and South America is a five-a-side soccer game that originated from Uruguay in 1930.

"Nike hopes that futsal will eventually become one of the most popular sports in the country. I believe that the sport, being skill-focused and easy-to-learn, will catch the Filipinos fancy. Like basketball, it can be played during or off the rainy season, indoors or outdoors," says Rely San Agustin, Nike Phils. sports marketing coordinator.

Futsal clinics will be held twice a year to brief coaches and referees about the rudiments of the game. Other programs will include open men's and women's competitions, collegiate and high school opens, not to mention competitions in the elementary level. There will be futsal competitions in basketball courts for more visibility.

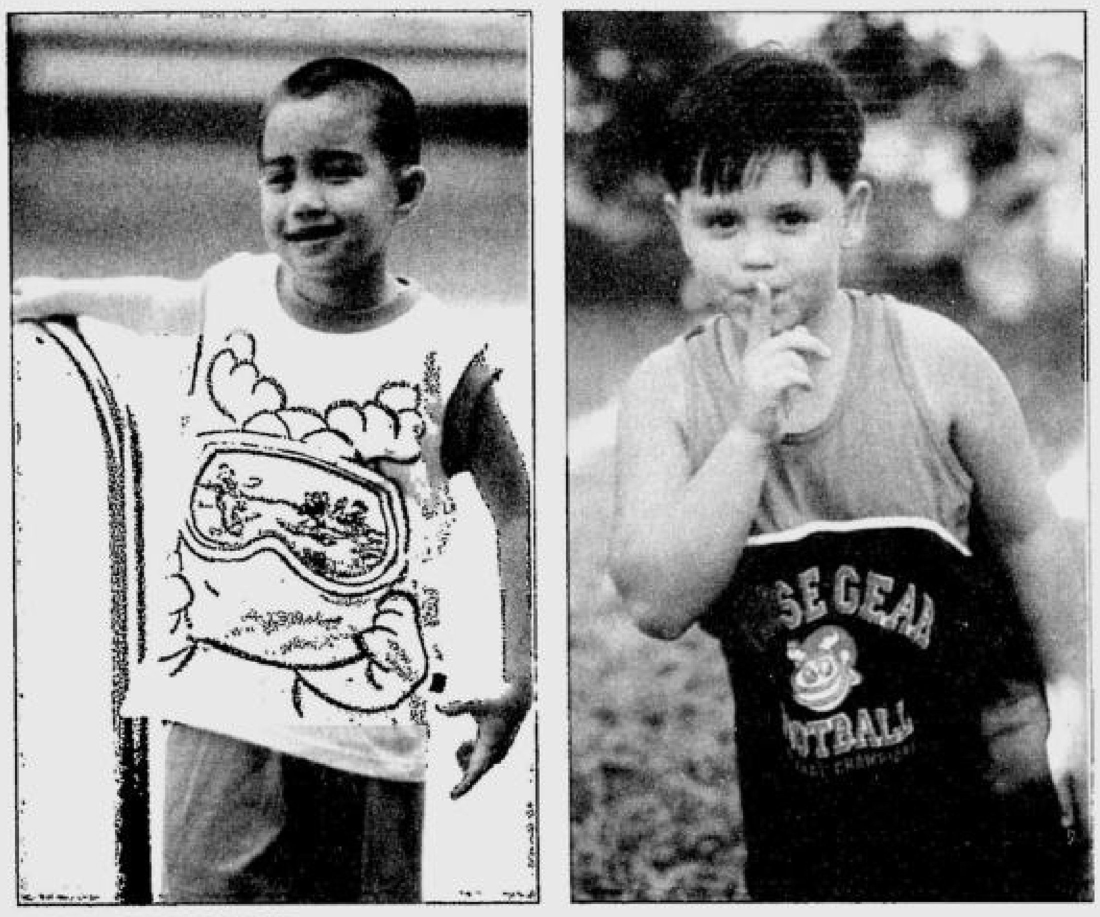
Other plans will include nationwide coaching clinics, nationwide inter-school and inter-barangay tournaments to reach the maximum number of people possible.

Nike believes bringing futsal into the country will elicit more appreciation for the game and eventually, the game of soccer.

Concretizing these plans, Nike held its first-ever Nike Futsal Coaches Clinic last February at Strikezone in Roxas Boulevard. Attended by coaches from various schools, the clinic was facilitated by futsal committee chair Joaquin Preysler. A referees' clinic on the other hand, was held last March at the La Salle Greenhills Gym. A major tournament is in the works and is proposed to push through in May.

INDOOR soccer, otherwise known as futsal

FUTSAL shoes, Nike Pro Sala FS, is anatomically contoured and features soft, durable suede vamp for supreme ball feel and strong lightweight mesh for breathability. Nike geo balanced technology is responsible for the futsal ball's consistent response and ball flight.



BOYS OF SUMMER

Bring out those baseball bats and swimming goggles. Better yet, gather your playmates for an afternoon of scooter race or tug-o'-war games. TV boys Goyong and Eisenlois enjoy the sun and chance to play in cotton get-ups splashed with cool designs. The Moose Gear collection is available at all SM branches and other leading department stores.

How to keep kids healthy

SUMMER is the time when kids are most active. As children go through this exciting period in their growth and development, they need essential nutrients to ensure optimum health.

To help parents keep track of the required health fundamentals for kids, here's a nutritional checklist from Ucare Milk, an affordable milk that offers 25 plus nutrients for bones, body and health.

Bone builders. As a child gets extra dynamic this summer, he should be nourished with the right amount of bone builders like calcium to help him develop stronger bones and healthy teeth. With strong bones, kids will be more equipped to indulge in fun and energetic activities.

Bodybuilders. Children are at a stage where their bodies are rapidly growing, thus, bodybuilding nutrients such as protein, iron, iodine and carbohydrates are fundamental requirements that should be properly supplied. Protein is one of the main components used by the body to build and repair cells and muscle tissues. Iron helps maintain healthy blood and is important for brain development and mental performance in early childhood. To ensure physical and mental development, a child will need a sufficient supply of iodine, which assists in proper mental functioning and likewise prevent goiter. Carbohydrates are a good source of energy, which provide kids with added strength and stamina

Health builders. Vitamins and minerals affect the overall health of children. Vitamin A helps them maintain good eyesight while Vitamin E aids in the maintenance of proper cell activity. Vitamin C and zinc build a stronger immune system, making children less susceptible to detrimental illnesses rampant during these times.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Will I be able to see/consult a specialist whenever I need one?

Yes. The medical coordinator or primary physician of an accredited hospital will refer you to a specialist (pediatrician, cardiologist, OB-GYNE, ENT, etc.) when deemed necessary. A referral slip will be issued by the medical coordinator or his/her secretary to MEDICard members for consultation and follow up check-ups with a specialist.

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard takes pride in its choice of Medical Coordinators. Our commitment in providing excellent health care to our clients has provided us with a record of unequalled service. **Dr. Vicente Bernardo, III** is MEDICard's Medical Coordinator in Medical Center Manila. He earned his degree in Medicine at the De La Salle University College of Medicine and later on specialized in General Surgery. Doc Bernardo joined MEDICard's service team way back 1988 and has remained popular with MEDICard members ever since. He remains to be a favorite because according to patients aside from being a good surgeon, he is also "super bait". For consultations, you can see him at Rm. 312 of Medical Center Manila every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10AM-5PM or at Rm. 706, Cathedral Heights Bldg. (beside St. Luke's Medical Center) every Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10AM-5PM.

Dr. Jerry F. Castro is one of MEDICard's accredited doctors in Medical Center Muntinlupa and Las Piñas Doctors Hospital. He finished Medicine in Manila Central University and chose Internal Medicine as his line of specialty. He is currently a Diplomate of the Philippine Society of Internal Medicine and is member to various organizations such as Philippine Thyroid Association, Philippine College of Occupational Medicine and a lot more. His hobbies include swimming and target shooting. If you want to avail of his services, you can visit him at Rm. 339 of Medical Center Muntinlupa from Mondays to Fridays, 8-10AM or at Rm 308 of Las Piñas Doctor's Hospital every T-Th, 6-8PM.

Dr. Lafayette R. Ang - Santo is one of MEDICard's urologists based in Los Baños and Calamba. He earned his degree in Medicine at the University of the Philippines and later on decided to become a urologist. He is married to Ms. Lisa Bello Ang-Santo and they have two wonderful girls. Weekends are spent playing golf or visiting their respective families. Should you wish to avail of his services, you can visit him at Los Baños Doctors Hospital every M-W, 3-5PM; F-S, 10-12PM or at Calamba Medical Center every M-W, 9AM – 12NN; T-TH, 2-5PM & F 8-10AM.

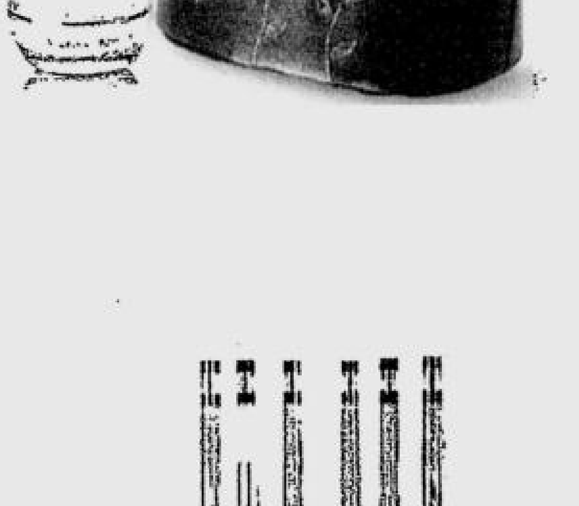
We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. **TEXT MEDICard for your queries:** 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

RETRO BENEFIT

The perfect bag to take when you flaunt your younger-looking skin is being given away for free as a special promo for May from Avon when you buy one Anew Retroactive 30-g or two Anew Retroactive 15-g jars. Anew Retroactive is available this month through the Avon Ladies nationwide and at Avon boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and Ali Mall.



Legendary cue sticks

MINNESOTA Fats is the most famous name in the history of billiards. With his unique style, persona and gift for the game, Minnesota Fats became a legend for all time, giving pool more popular exposure than any other player in history. His real name is Rudolph Wanderone.

Minnesota Fats' spirit lives on through DMI Sports' Minnesota Fats cue sticks in a wide variety of quality graphic designs. Smooth and gradually tapered shafts, they have durable finishing and perfectly aligned stainless steel or brass joints. Topped with thick leather tips, they are made of Canadian Maple wood—the A-1 wood of choice for top-of-the-line cue sticks.

Minnesota Fats Professional Cues—top-of-the-line cues all in birdseye maple, with mother of pearl or bone inlays—are exclusively distributed by Sports Resources Inc. to about 100 different outlets in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Available at all Toby's outlets nationwide, all Chris Sports outlets nationwide, and in over a hundred stores and select sports shops nationwide.

MINNESOTA Fats cue sticks

Erap represents what every Filipino unconsciously wants to be

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ALTHOUGH I don't normally discuss national issues or politics in this column as a matter of personal policy and preference, I have been besieged by readers, friends and acquaintances to comment on what's happening to our country and where I think all these events are leading. So let me deviate slightly from my usual theme.

The ouster of President Estrada from office long before his term is over has been accurately foreseen by many Filipino psychics as soon as he took his oath of office. What happened to him is part of his personal karma. An intuitive channel told me she saw Erap as the reincarnation of the Biblical thief, Barabas, who was crucified at the left side of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago. Erap is simply harvesting what he has planted in the past. Those who are now still with him were probably part of his karmic partners during Barabas' gangster days in Israel.

What is happening to the country, on the other hand, is part of our collective karma as a nation. We will never attain full industrialization because we refuse to change our consciousness or awareness. The Philippines will remain an economically backward country unless we change our traditional, ingrained pattern of thinking and our negative attitude toward life.

The greatest enemy of our country is not our leaders, although they have much to answer for our situation, too. But really, our greatest enemy is our own people. As I had pointed out in a letter to the editor of various newspapers several years ago, the Filipino people have "a genius for stupidity."

It takes genius, for example, to elevate an inveterate drunkard, gambler, womanizer, liar and a school dropout with a questionable intelligence to the highest position in the government and yet expect him to run the country well.

And it takes genius to be willing to die for a man who has robbed you of your money, dignity and hope merely because he was jailed and treated like an ordinary criminal, which is what the law says.

Such a trait in our character is unique and extraordinary in the annals of any nation. It will put Mr. Webster out of his wits to define or invent a word to describe what we, as a people, are doing to this country.

We have imposed the trappings of Western democracy on an Asian people who are not ready for it, who do not have the mental makeup, the heart, the will and the attitude to implement or to carry it through. So we have compromised by calling our political system a democracy and putting in place all its structures and outer shell but without the substance and the internal discipline which alone will make it work in reality.

Former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was absolutely right when he said that Filipinos are not ready for Western-style democracy. What the Philippines needs is a benevolent, wise and strong-willed leader who will rule with a combination of compassion and an iron hand. It is the sort of leader that Greek philosopher Plato described in his "Republic," that an ideal head of state should be a "philosopher king," or one who is imbued with the principles of philosophy, with the love for truth.

A nation whose policies and rules are based on the assumption that everybody is a cheat and liar unless proven otherwise cannot long endure. Take a close look at our bureaucracy and its rules. It is burdened by elaborate and often unnecessary checks and balances so that nothing ever gets done in the process.

Such a situation cannot be changed overnight. It needs an overhauling, not only of our institutions and structures, but our way of thinking, our consciousness and sense of awareness. We have to begin to trust one another, to be honest and be truthful with one another, to be true to ourselves.

Ours is the only constitution in the world that contains the word "love," so I am told. Yet our relationship with one another is based on envy and fear. We are one of the most negative and suspicious of all people. We don't and can't trust anybody, and for a good reason. Most people really can't be trusted.

When we see something good happening to our neighbor, we at once think he succeeded because he cheated or pulled a fast one over another. We try to pull him down to our level. This has been called "crab mentality" by sociologists. In the end we all lose; the whole nation loses. We are always back to square one.

But even if we completely change everybody in the government, from the smallest government functionary to the president, but without changing their consciousness, we will go back to the same thing all over again in no time at all.

So elections come and go, and we keep on electing the same type of consciousness but with different names, the same dog with a new collar. Erap is merely a mirror of our people's collective consciousness. He is every Filipino. He is us, whether we like it or not. He represents what every Filipino unconsciously wants to be, that is, to become very rich by any means and get away with it. That's why we can't take what Erap represents out of our system.

Does it take genius to see that?

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Green tea benefits in a capsule

SUPPLEMENT
Tegreen
CELL PROTECTION
Antioxidant Defense System Support
PHARMANEX
CAPSULES

SINCE it is hard for even a tea lover to consume four cups of green tea every day. the health benefits that can be derived from green tea have been conveniently collected in a capsule called Tegreen Cell Protector.

Green tea has been shown to counter the effects of everyday toxins, pollution and stress, as well as support the immune system. But in order to achieve the full benefit, at least four cups must be consumed each day—a daunting prospect to even the greatest of connoisseurs.

Manufactured by Pharmanex, Tegreen Cell Protector delivers all the benefits of drinking multiple cups of green tea without the caffeine. Each 250 mg capsule of Tegreen provides a high concentration of polyphenols (the active compound of green tea) and catechins (among the most potent natural antioxidants available). Ongoing research has shown these two elements to be an effective natural defense against the negative effects of stress, smoking and exposure to environmental toxins (pollution). A 30-day supply of Tegreen is P1,600.

Within the last decade, a number of leading universities have explored the benefits of Tegreen and green tea in general, including Purdue University and Kansas University. The confirmation that Tegreen contains high levels of the antioxidant epigallocatechin gallate (EGCg) was made in 1997 by Lester Mitscher, Ph.D., university distinguished professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry at Kansas University. In laboratory studies, he found that EGCg neutralizes free radicals 100 times more effectively than Vitamin C, and 25 times better than Vitamin E, the most commonly recognized sources of dietary antioxidants.

"This age-old Chinese tea has been shown to protect the cells from a variety of environmental conditions," said Dr. Mitscher. "Tegreen delivers the antioxidant benefits of brewed green tea, but in a purified, standardized form."

Pharmanex, a Nu Skin Enterprises' company, is a leader in the research and development of phyto-pharmaceutical and nutritional products. The company has a portfolio of multivitamin/mineral supplements, natural health products, standardized botanicals and specialized health systems. Pharmanex products are sold direct to the consumer through the Internet, a network of independent representatives, as well as a number of independent pharmacies. Call 689-0333 or visit www.pharmanex.com.ph.

Press your left cheek here.   Press your right cheek here.

If a stain appears, then your skin is too oily.
Wash away excess oils that may cause pimples,
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Clears excess oil for good, like a derma would.

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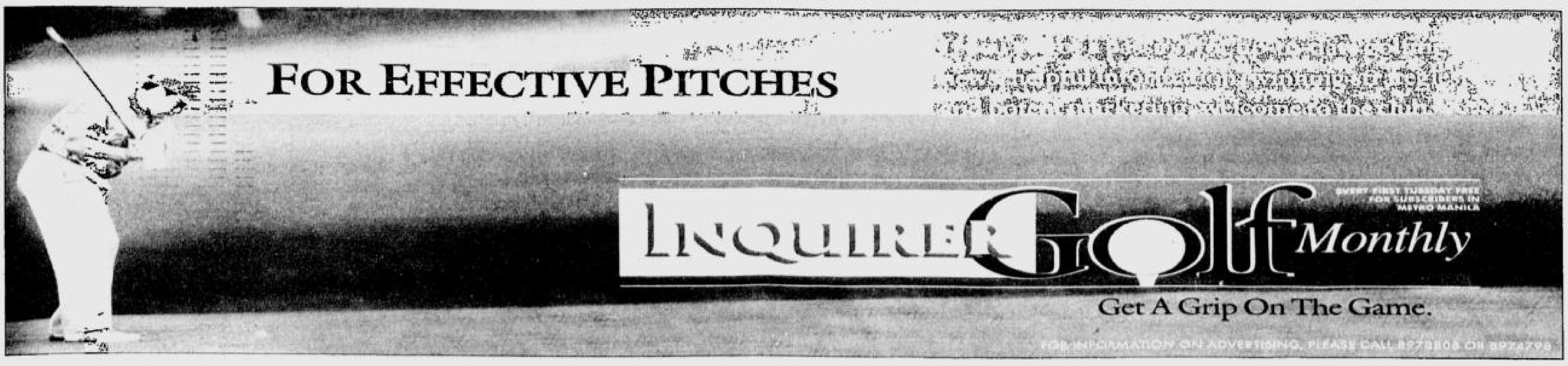

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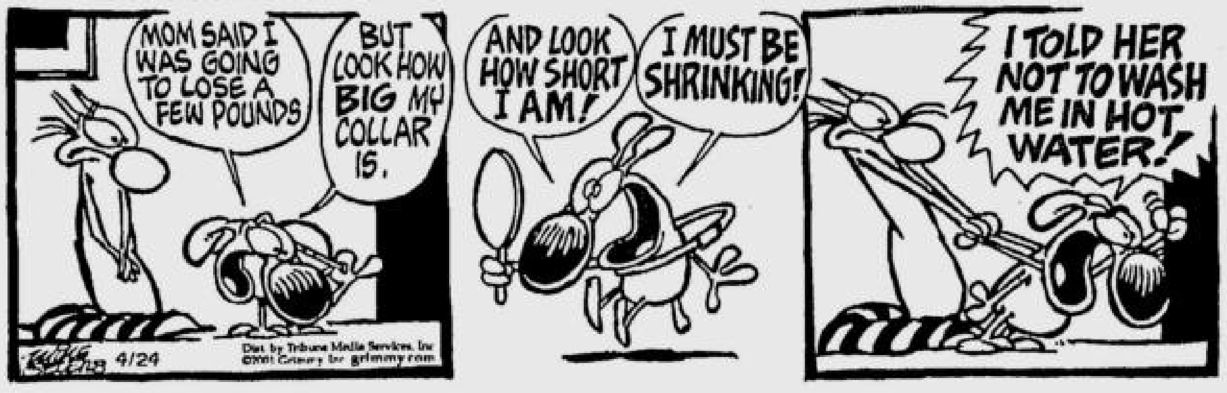
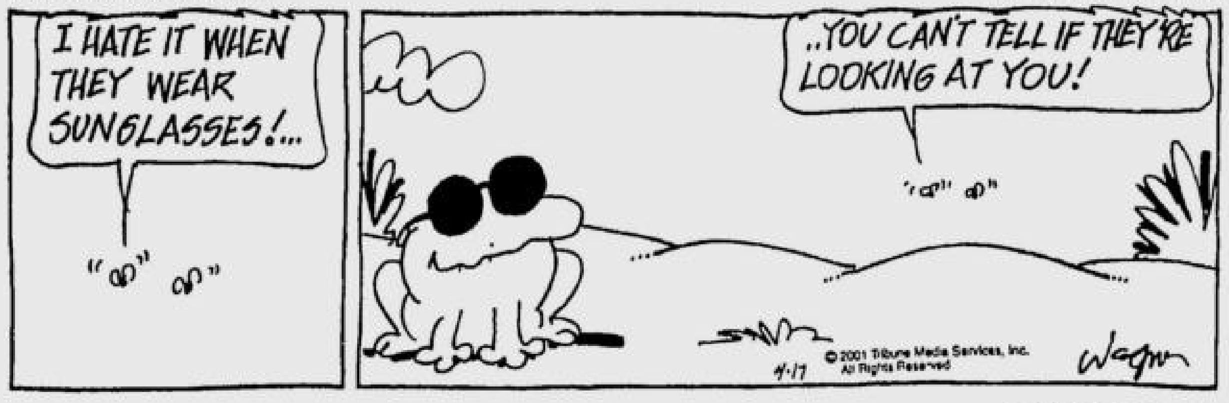
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MOM SAID I WAS GOING TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS
BUT LOOK HOW BIG MY COLLAR IS.
AND LOOK HOW SHORT I AM!
I MUST BE SHRINKING!
I TOLD HER NOT TO WASH ME IN HOT WATER!
4/24
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2001 Grimmy Inc grimmy.com

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I HATE IT WHEN THEY WEAR SUNGLASSES!...
..YOU CAN'T TELL IF THEY'RE LOOKING AT YOU!
4-17
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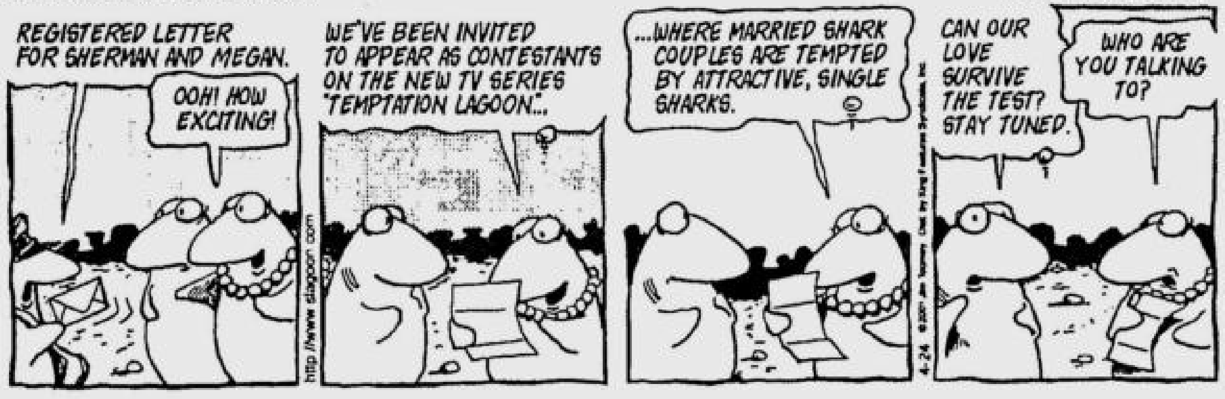
Wagner

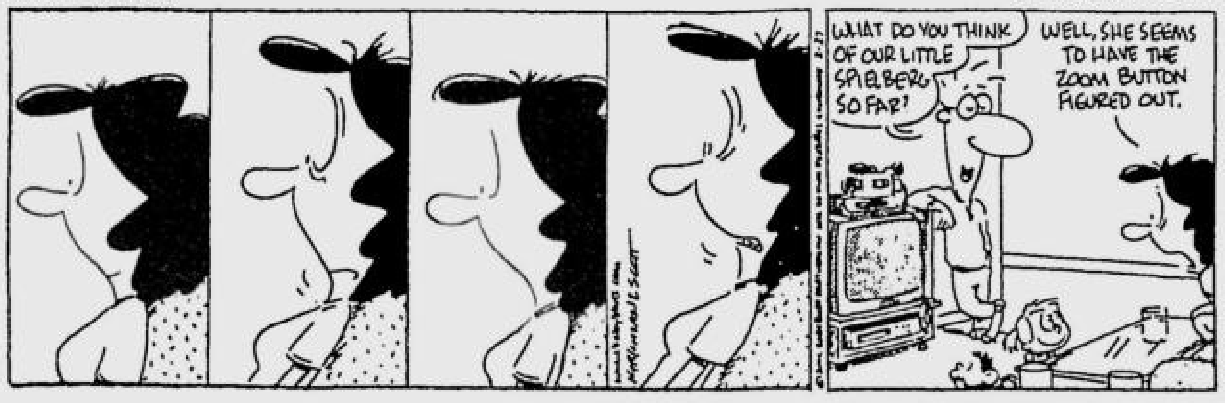
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


REGISTERED LETTER FOR SHERMAN AND MEGAN.
OOH! HOW EXCITING!
WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO APPEAR AS CONTESTANTS ON THE NEW TV SERIES "TEMPTATION LAGOON"..
...WHERE MARRIED SHARK COUPLES ARE TEMPTED BY ATTRACTIVE, SINGLE SHARKS.
CAN OUR LOVE SURVIVE THE TEST? STAY TUNED.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR LITTLE SPIELBERG SO FAR?
WELL, SHE SEEMS TO HAVE THE ZOOM BUTTON FIGURED OUT.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Laurence Olivier, Richard Benjamin, Paul Winfield, Susan Strasberg, AJ Langer, Naomi Cambell

Happy Birthday: With your experience, you've got the mileage and the ability to go the distance Put your losses, observations and connections to work for you. Your desire to achieve will be the final ingredient needed to help you sail into the sunset of success. Take action, believe in yourself, and don't let laziness be your downfall. Your numbers, 8, 13, 24, 27, 33, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let boredom stand in the way of doing a good job. Put some flare back into your work or move on to greater challenges. Attend motivational seminars that will help you to reach your potential.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be too quick to judge others. You may have invalid information that will cause you to make the wrong choices. Self-improvement projects are your best outlet. You need an outlet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't promise your mate that you'll do something for him or her unless you have full intentions of following through. Colleagues will sidetrack you if you get involved in a dispute.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romantic connections will lead to a serious and prosperous arrangement. Mingle with intellectual people to meet the type of companions who will satisfy your needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your temper ruin your day You mustn't force your opinions on others Participating in a challenging physical activity will help ease your tension and stress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will learn if you listen. Someone you know well will reveal information pertinent to your professional future. Move quickly if you see an opportunity to advance. Your timing must be impeccable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't become involved in dubious financial schemes Extravagance will be your downfall. Excessiveness will result in minor illness. You need to put some time aside for rest and relaxation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your partner will not put up with your possessiveness. Expect to get into a heated discussion. Don't try to change loved ones. Self-improvement should be your goal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be discriminating when discussing work. You won't be able to trust some of your colleagues or clients. Keep your ideas to yourself for the time being.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time to take a serious look at getting into shape before summer hits and you have to shed some of those layers of clothing you've been hiding under.

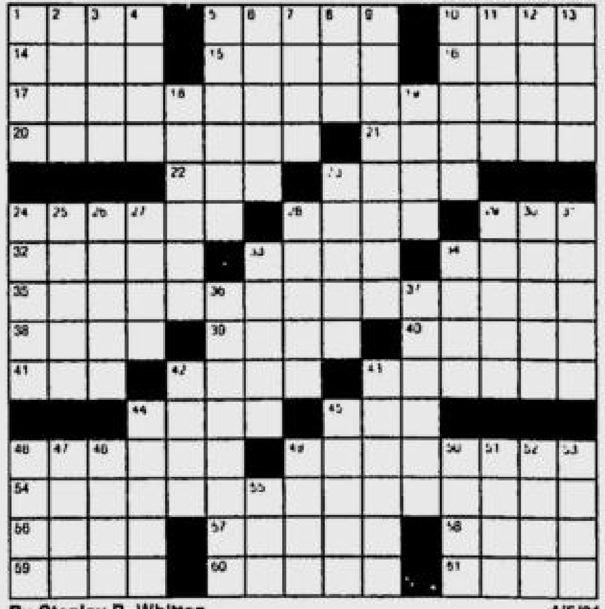
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional problems with family members will be disheartening. You must listen rather than offer your opinions. Visit friends who may be able to shed some light on your situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be depressed. You need to concentrate on your creative projects and not worry so much about what other people are saying or doing. Put your heart and soul into things you enjoy.

Birthday Baby: You are quick to take action and to lend a helping hand, but also prefer that others do things your way. You are gung-ho and willing to give every pursuit your all. You are a doer and an achiever.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

4/5/01

ACROSS
1 From a great distance
5 Battlefield doc
10 Low, wooden platform
14 Title
15 Betel palm
16 Coin in Cancun
17 Song from "Ain't Misbehavin'"
20 Inborn behavior
21 Connecting rooms
22 Fermentation vessel
23 Woman of the future?
24 Wandered
28 __ the clown
29 Bauxite or pyrite
32 Brazilian palm
33 Lotion additive
34 Haley or Trebek
35 1998 Ian Bannen film
38 Lived hand to mouth
39 Shoshones
40 At no time
41 Far out!
42 Winter transportation
43 Most painful
44 Mineo and Maglie
45 Cassowary kin
46 Kind of goat or cat
49 Mooring line
54 Benny Goodman classic
56 Brainstorm
57 On the up-and-up
58 Particle
59 Young adult
60 Zigzag turns
61 Nine: pref.

DOWN
1 Opposed to
2 Young deer
3 Book before Obadiah
4 Take a break
5 Bacchante
6 Upright
7 Part of N.Y.P.D.
8 Haughtily aloof
9 Overturned
10 Ruin
11 Maintained
12 Man or Wight
13 Bunny mommies
18 Reside where one works
19 Continental money
23 Wares
24 More crude
25 Japanese seaport
26 Inquired
27 Domestic servant
28 Run like madras
29 Popeye's Ms. Oyl
30 Russo and Auberjonois
31 Bring to bear
33 Feeds the kitty
34 Affirm
36 Easily duped
37 Sufficient
42 Poet Teasdale
43 Intelligence
44 Gannet goose
45 Els of golf
46 Landed
47 Naked
48 Delight
49 Shovels
50 Robert or Nolan
51 Italian eight
52 Unit of loudness.
53 Jane Austen novel
55 Affirmative

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	K	I	M		A	P	R	E	S		B	A	N	G
O	N	C	E		I	R	E	N	E		A	G	A	R
F	O	O	T	B	R	I	D	G	E		A	I	D	A
A	B	N	E	R		C	O	A	S	T		L	I	V
			R	E	E	K		G	R	O	C	E	R	Y
O	V	E	R	A	G	E		E	E	R	O			
L	I	T	E		O	R	D		D	O	U	S	E	D
A	N	O	A	S		S	O	S		S	N	I	D	E
F	O	N	D	A	S		W	H	Y		T	R	E	E
			E	T	A	T		R	E	A	R	E	N	D
F	E	R	R	A	R	I		E	A	S	Y			
L	E	O		N	O	S	E	D		S	M	I	T	E
I	R	A	N		Y	A	R	D	S	T	I	C	K	S
N	I	N	E		A	N	N	E	S		L	E	O	N
T	E	S	T		N	E	E	D	S		E	S	S	E

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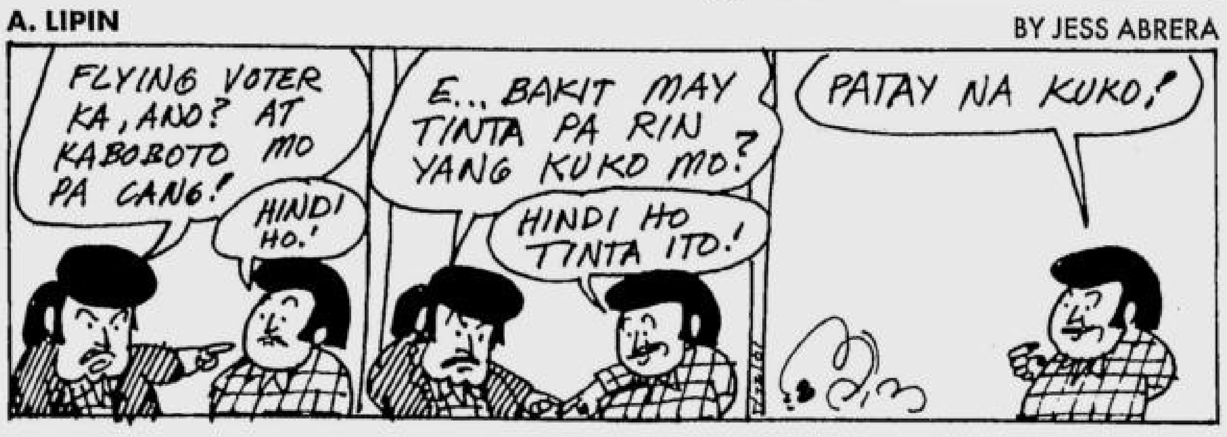
4/5/01

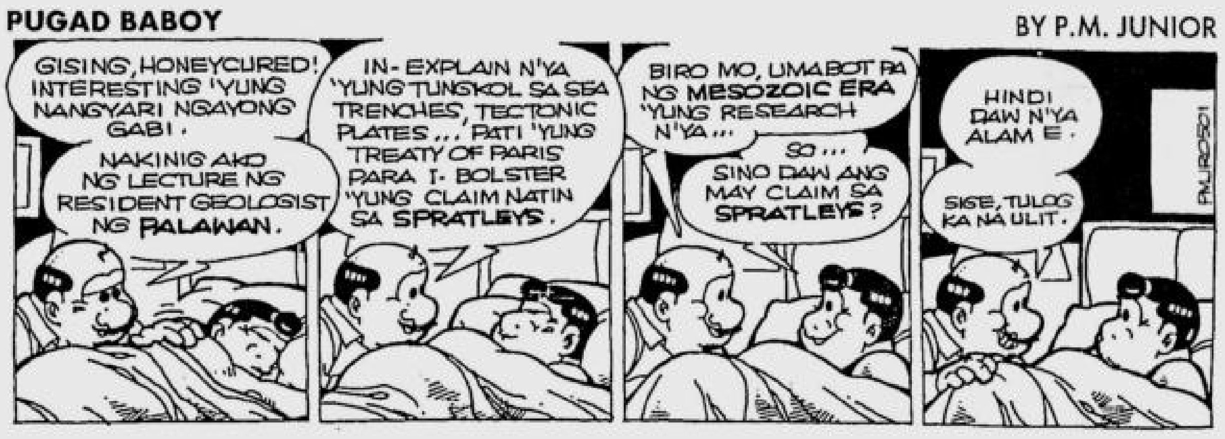
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


FLYING VOTER KA, ANO? AT KABOBOTO MO PA RIN!
HINDI HO.!
E... BAKIT MAY TINTA PA RIN YANG KUKO MO?
HINDI HO TINTA ITO.!
PATAY NA KUKO.!

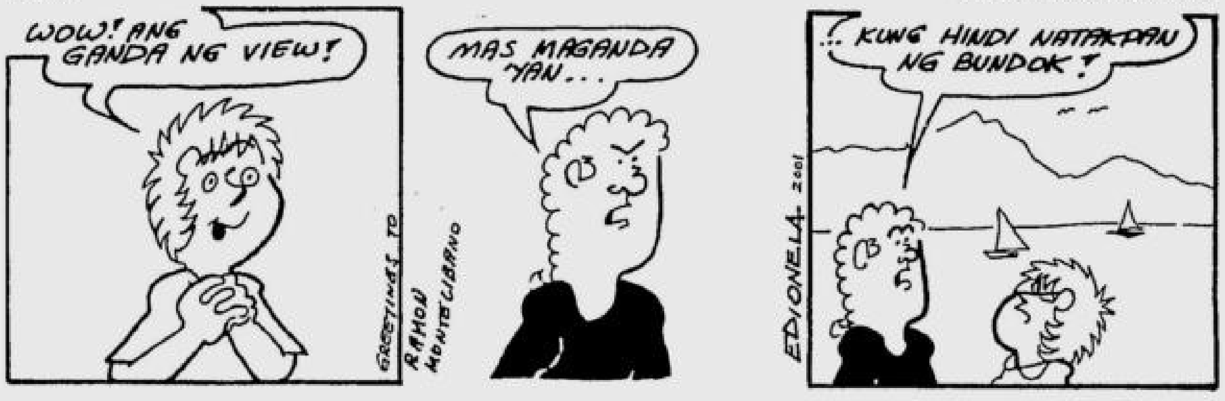
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GISING, HONEYCURED! INTERESTING 'YUNG NANGYARI NGAYONG GABI.
NAKINIG AKO NG LECTURE NG RESIDENT GEOLOGIST NG PALAWAN.
IN-EXPLAIN N'YA 'YUNG TUNGKOL SA SEA TRENCHES, TECTONIC PLATES... PATI 'YUNG TREATY OF PARIS PARA I-BOLSTER 'YUNG CLAIM NATIN SA SPRATLEYS.
BIRO MO, UMABOT PA NG MESOZOIC ERA 'YUNG RESEARCH N'YA...
SO... SINO DAW ANG MAY CLAIM SA SPRATLEYS?
HINDI DAW N'YA ALAM E.
SIGE, TULOG KA NA ULIT.
PMJR0521

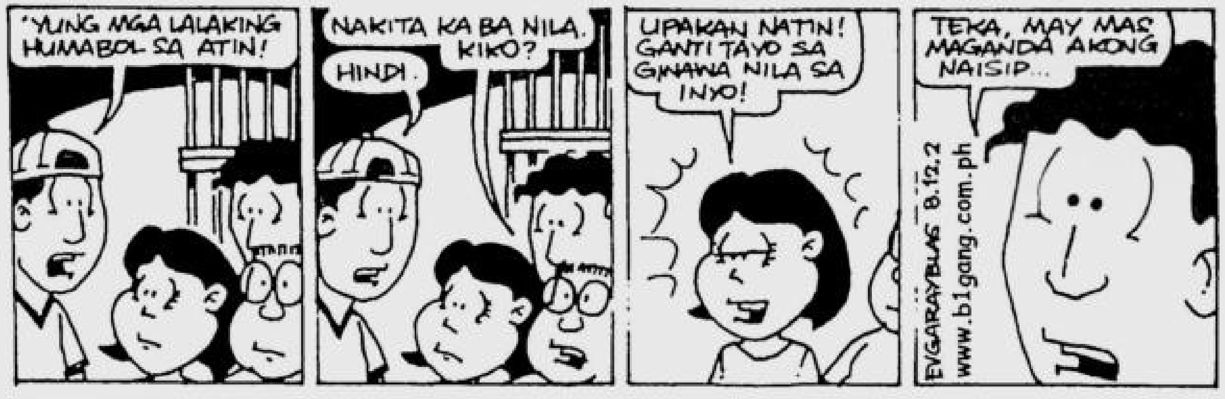
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


WOW! ANG GANDA NG VIEW!
GREETINGS TO RAMON MONTELIBANO
MAS MAGANDA 'YAN...
...KUNG HINDI NATAKPAN NG BUNDOK!
EDIONELA 2001

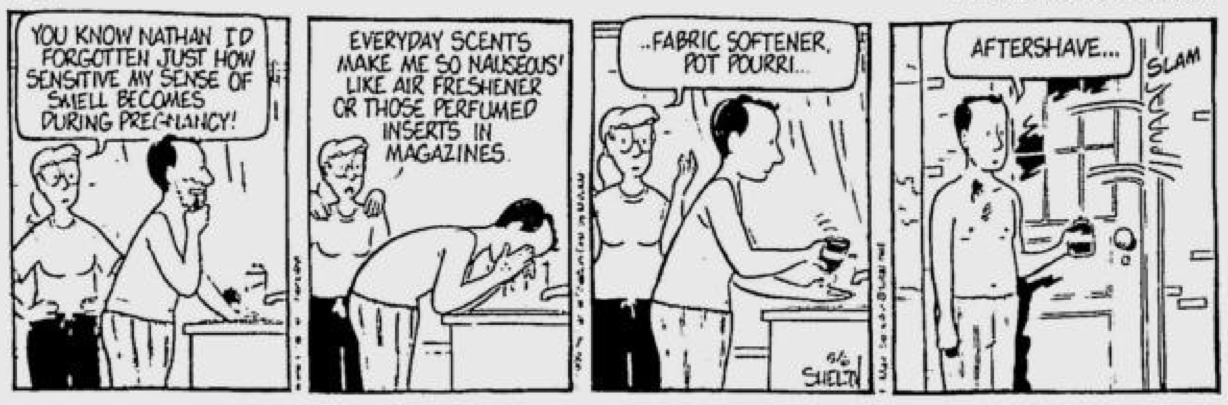
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


'YUNG MGA LALAKING HUMABOL SA ATIN!
NAKITA KA BA NILA, KIKO?
HINDI.
UPAKAN NATIN! GANTI TAYO SA GINAWA NILA SA INYO!
TEKA, MAY MAS MAGANDA AKONG NAISIP...
EVGARAYBLAS 8.12.2
www.b1gang.com.ph

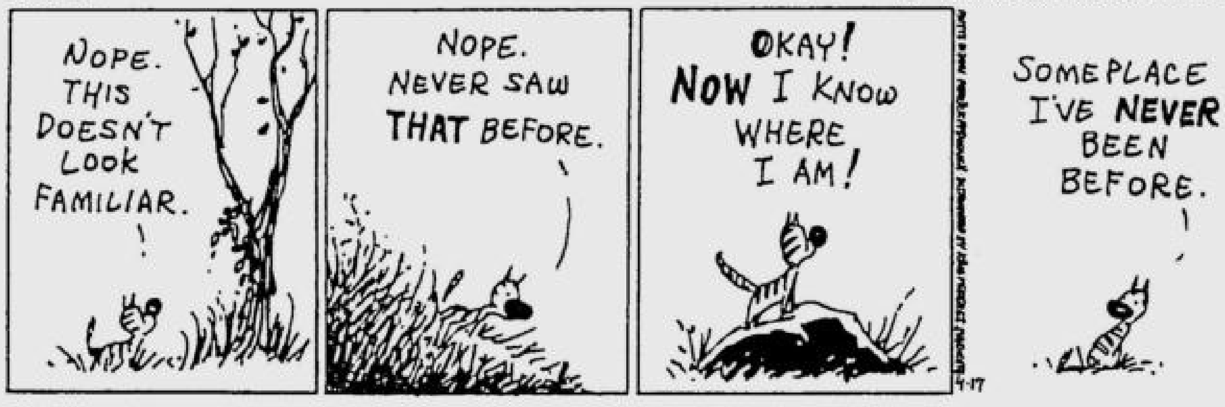
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU KNOW NATHAN I'D FORGOTTEN JUST HOW SENSITIVE MY SENSE OF SMELL BECOMES DURING PREGNANCY!
EVERYDAY SCENTS MAKE ME SO NAUSEOUS! LIKE AIR FRESHENER OR THOSE PERFUMED INSERTS IN MAGAZINES.
..FABRIC SOFTENER, POT POURRI...
AFTERSHAVE...
SLAM
SHELTON

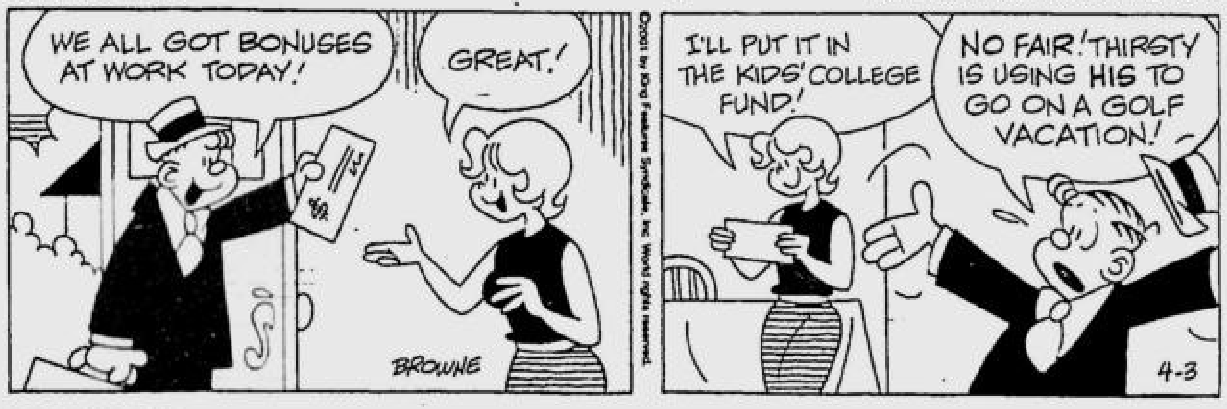
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NOPE. THIS DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR.
NOPE. NEVER SAW THAT BEFORE.
OKAY! NOW I KNOW WHERE I AM!
SOMEPLACE I'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE.
4-17

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WE ALL GOT BONUSES AT WORK TODAY!
GREAT!
I'LL PUT IT IN THE KIDS' COLLEGE FUND!
NO FAIR! THIRSTY IS USING HIS TO GO ON A GOLF VACATION!
BROWNE
4-3
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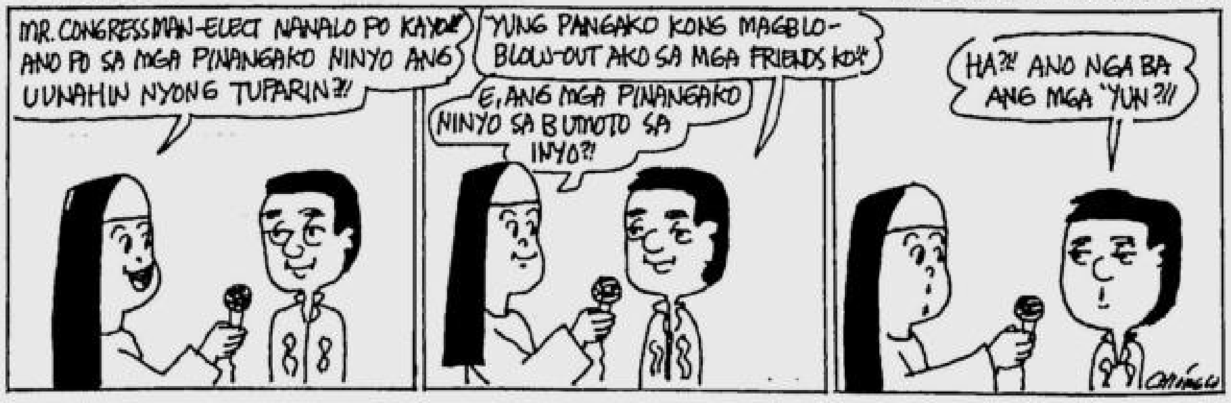
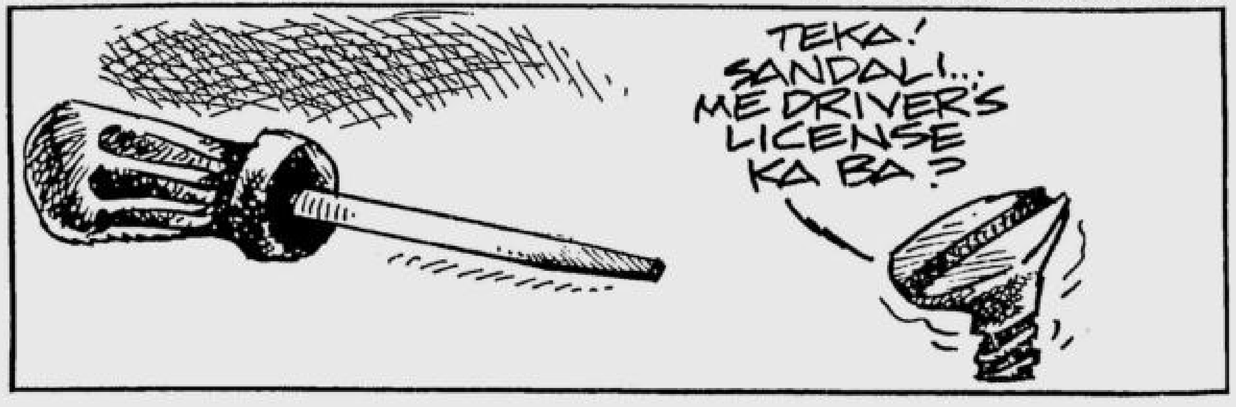
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. CONGRESSMAN-ELECT NANALO PO KAYO! ANO PO SA MGA PINANGAKO NINYO ANG UUNAHIN NYONG TUPARIN?!
'YUNG PANGAKO KONG MAGBLO-BLOW-OUT AKO SA MGA FRIENDS KO!
E, ANG MGA PINANGAKO NINYO SA BUMOTO SA INYO?!
HA?! ANO NGA BA ANG MGA 'YUN?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


TEKA! SANDALI... ME DRIVER'S LICENSE KA BA?